Woman's Day Specials

7 Solutions for Problem Windows

Walls, Windows & Floors™



Decorate in a Weekend
110 Tricks to Try

CREATIVE MAKEOVERS for Bedrooms, Baths & More!

34 QUICK & EASY Window Treatments & Trims

119 Colorful Ways to Perk Up a Room

13 Ways to Show Off Your Photos

GET DESIGNER STYLE for Your Home

Woman's Day
Innovation Series
Volume XVI, Number 2
U.S. $4.99 CANADA $5.50
Display until May 23, 2006
womansday.com/specials

WALLS, WINDOWS & FLOORS
VOLUME XVI, NUMBER 2



FEATURES

39 A Fresh Start
Welcome spring with these fresh ideas and projects.

40 Bright Ideas
Color inspirations for personalizing your rooms.

48 Anything But Ordinary
Here's a clever answer to a problem wall.

50 Photo Play
Interesting ways to display photographs.

54 Oh Sew Easy!
Window treatments tailored to your needs.

58 Smart Solutions
We help you find the right covering for your window.

62 Finishing Touches
Trims can be a curtain's best friend.

66 Made in the Shade
Easy ways to add pizzazz to your shades.

68 Floor Fashions
Take your pick from these colorful scatter rugs.

70 How Clever!
Four fun decorating ideas.

72 At Home With
Liz Lange proves that a family-friendly decor can be stylish

76 An Interesting Mix
A Victorian bathroom is inspired by a couple's trip to India

80 The Perfect Face-lift
This total makeover results in a dream-come-true plantatio
bedroom suite.

84 Making More from Less
Elegant touches enlarge a small London apartment.

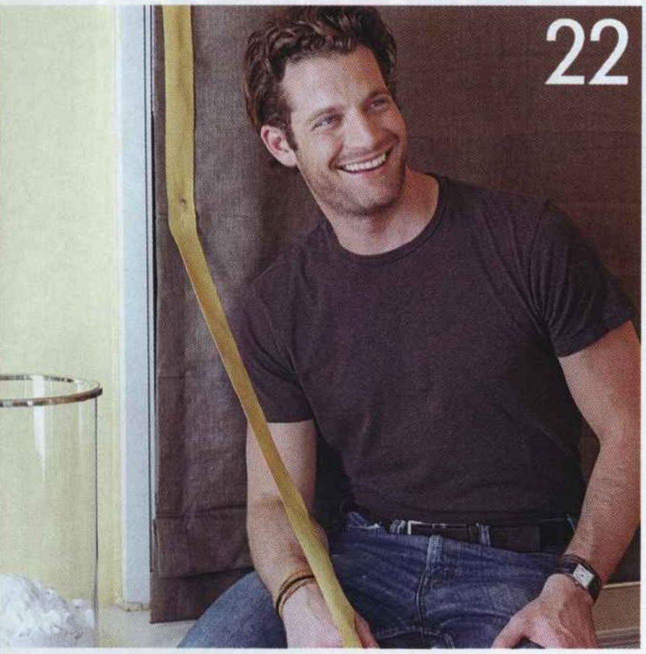
ON THE COVER

7 Solutions for Problem Windows **58**
Decorate in a Weekend: 110 Tricks to Try **10–20, 26–36, 48–57, 62–71, 80, 104**
Creative Makeovers for Bedrooms, Baths & More **40–89**
34 Quick and Easy Window Treatments and Trims **10, 20, 33, 54, 58, 62, 66**
119 Colorful Ways to Perk Up a Room **10–20, 28, 40, 54, 62–89**
13 Ways to Show Off Your Photos **18, 26, 50**
Get Designer Style for Your Home **72, 76, 84**



PHOTOGRAPH: Mark Lohman
For story, see page 58.

VOLUME XVI, NUMBER 2







DEPARTMENTS

6 Editor's Corner

Finding inspiration is half the battle.

10 Style Notes

Hot new products to jazz up your home.

14 Innovator

Katie Love's scratches turn tiles into unique artwork.

18 Where to Find It

This selection of frames will show off any photo to its best advantage.

20 Like It, Love It, Gotta Have It

Wallpaper borders, runners and blinds for every budget.

22 Ask the Expert

Designer Nate Berkus gives solutions for preserving original wallpaper, lighting a room without a ceiling fixture, and updating a fireplace.

24 Color Cues

TV host and designer Debbie Travis gives tips on how to wake up neutrals.

26 40 Ways to . . .

Banish the blues from a dark space.

28 Project Files

Revitalize tiles with paint, wrapping paper and glue; or give a mirror an eclectic reflection with a mosaic frame.

33 Decorator's Notebook

Whether you make or purchase your window treatments, here's information you need to know.

104 Kitty's Keepers

Add drama to your walls with Art Deco–inspired sconces.

SPECIAL OFFERS

90 Wallies pre-pasted paper cutouts.

98 Garden Sconces & Glazed Pots.

RESOURCES

93 Great Ideas for Your Home

Brochures from leading manufacturers.

100 Resources

102 Library



Recently, I received a call from an old friend who had just

bought a weekend house in Easton, Pennsylvania. "Help, I desperately need ideas for curtains but I don't want boring drapes," she said. Finding sources of inspiration is part of the joy of decorating, and of major importance to my job as a senior editor.

To my friend, I suggested that she arm herself with a notebook and jot down everything she observed about window treatments that appealed to her (see Decorator's Notebook on page 33).

To take it a step further, I advised her to do what I have been doing for years—flip through the pages of decorating books and magazines, cut out photographs that are appealing, and paste them into your notebook. And do the same with fabric swatches, trimmings, paint swatches, and anything else that catches your eye on your travels.



A great place to start is the pages of this magazine—newly designed with color tabs, new typefaces and fresh layouts to make your reading easier and more pleasurable. Not only are there loads of window covering ideas to borrow, but you'll also find a host of ideas for sprucing up your floors and walls—the perfect companions for your new windows.

And for those of you who like to see ideas put into action, apartment dweller Sarah Vanrenen, and homeowners James and Lucy, and have done wonders with their respective small spaces (see pages 76 and 84). Each has drawn on their own creativity to transform difficult areas into warm, livable and inviting rooms.

Armed with the right tools and resources, many of which you'll find on the following pages, you, too, can become your own decorator extraordinaire.

—KITTY COX, EDITOR

See our special offers on pages 90 & 98.

Walls, Windows & Floors™

Editor in Chief
Olivia Monjo
Managing Editor Elaine Cipriano
Art Directors Leah Bossio, Andrea L. Gallo

WALLS, WINDOWS & FLOORS™
Editor Kitty Cox
Designer Andrea L. Gallo

EDITORIAL STAFF
Senior Editor, Kitchens and Baths
Leslie Plummer Clagett
Senior Editor, Crafts and Design Kitty Cox
Senior Editor, Decorating Jean Nayar
Senior Editor, Building and Remodeling
Barbara Winfield
Departments Editor Katie Kretschmer
Copy Director Doug Schulkind
Editorial Assistants Beth Collins, Ginevra Pylant, Melissa Sarver

ART STAFF
Associate Art Directors
Kathleen Lewandowski, Sharon Minthorn
Photo Editor
Matthew Levinson
Senior Designer
Jaclyn Steinberg
Departments Designer
Bridget Giambertone
Production Coordinator Anthi Keeling

PRODUCTION STAFF
Director of Production Operations
Michael Esposito
Production Director Gary Krystofiak
Production Manager Kerry Tonning
Production Assistant Melissa K. Smario

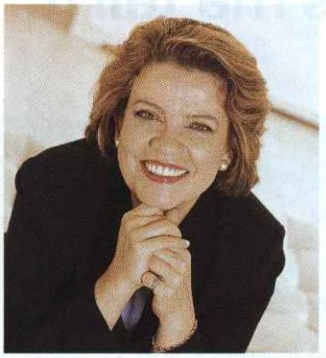
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Pamela Acuff, Donna Babylon, Bernadette Baczynski, Liz George, Michele Filon, Nancy A. Herrick, Mervyn Kaufman, Jennifer Prestigiacomo, Phyllis Schiller

Marketing Director Ilene Strober

Creative Director
Brad Pallas
Senior Vice President, Group Editorial Director
Jane Chesnutt

Editorial and Advertising Offices:
1633 Broadway, New York, NY 10019
Woman's Day Innovation Series is published 10 times yearly by Hachette Filipacchi Media U.S., Inc.
1633 Broadway, New York, NY 10019
Volume XVI, Number 2, 2006 Walls, Windows & Floors
ISSN 1550-5707
A Publication of Hachette Filipacchi Media U.S., Inc.
Woman's Day is a registered trademark of Hachette Filipacchi Media U.S., Inc.
 Printed in U.S.A.
Canadian Business Number 126018209 RT

HFMUS. Hachette Filipacchi Media MPA
www.hfmus.com



Dear Readers,

Welcome to the new issue of *Walls, Windows & Floors!* We've tweaked the design to make it cleaner, brighter and more reader-friendly. We've also refocused the content so it's more inviting and accessible. Let me know what you think of our changes.

Also, as ever, I'd love to see what you've done with *your* walls, windows and floors. Remember, no project is too big or too small! You never know, your home may appear in our pages in a future issue. E-mail me at *wdsip@hfmus.com* and include digital photos. If you don't have e-mail, send a description of your home and before and after photos. (We'll return only photos sent with a self-addressed, stamped envelope.) Write to me at: Woman's Day SIPs, 1633 Broadway, 42nd floor, New York, NY 10019. I can't wait to hear from you!

—Olivia Monjo, Editor in Chief

Visit Us Online!

Go to *www.womansday.com/specials* for great ideas and inspiration, tips, easy how-tos and much more! Read about creating a romantic bedroom, beautifying your deck, choosing the best lighting, walking off weight and more. **Plus, enter our giveaways and win!**

Talk to Us!

Your opinion matters. Join our e-WD Specials Reader Panel. Tell us what you like and don't like via online questionnaires. We'll listen and you'll be **eligible to win prizes**. For more details, go to *www.hfmsurveys.com/wdsip*.





Coming Next!

Kitchens & Baths

on sale March 7

- **Delicious designs for a dine-in kitchen**
- **How to create a spa/bath**
- **Devilishly clever kitchen gadgets**
- **Designing the perfect pantry**

Budget Decorating Ideas

on sale March 14

- **The Great Buy Awards: The best in budget-wise furniture, decorative accessories, rugs, lamps and more**
- **How to buy furniture like a pro**
- **Thrifty chic: A look at designer Rachel Ashwell's home**
- **10 Ways to decorate with photos**

Walls, Windows & Floors™

Vice President/Publisher
James Fraguela

VP, Group General Manager Ronald Minutella
General Manager Greg Roperti

ADVERTISING STAFF
Advertising Coordinator Casandra Hangiaras
EASTERN
Eastern Manager Richard M. Free, 212-767-6829
Account Manager Stacy Hatz, 212-767-6748
Sales Assistant Carrie Dutelle, 212-767-6739
SOUTHEAST & TEXAS
Account Manager Nancy McEntegart, 404-982-9990
Sales Assistant Camille Sears, 404-982-9990
MIDWEST
Midwest Manager Kevin Draz, 312-923-4830
Account Manager Tom Horne, 312-923-4826
Sales Assistant Lucinda Lopez, 312-923-4824
WESTERN
Account Manager Janis Crowley, 415-249-9404
Sales Assistant Tenaya Figueira, 415-249-9401
DIRECT RESPONSE ACCOUNT MANAGER
Peter Brevett, 212-767-5719
Classified Advertising Sales, 212-767-5750

CRAFTS, GARDENING AND ENTERTAINMENT REPRESENTATIVES
J.V. Johnson & Associates, Inc.: **Manager** Brett B. Moore
Gardening and Entertainment Manager Rebecca Carrington,
30 Oneida Street, Oneonta, NY 13820
Tel.: 607-432-2219, Fax: 607-432-2130

Senior VP, Group Publishing Director,
Women's Service & Shelter
John J. Miller

WALLS, WINDOWS & FLOORS™
is published by Hachette Filipacchi Media U.S., Inc. (HFM U.S.)
Chairman Gérald de Roquemaurel
President & Chief Executive Officer Jack Kliger
Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer Philippe Guelton
Exec. Vice President, Chief Financial Officer & Treasurer John T. O'Connor
Executive Vice President & General Counsel Catherine R. Flickinger
Executive Vice President, Group Publishing Director, Men's Enthusiast Network Nicholas J. Matarazzo
Senior Vice President, ELLE Group Publishing Director Carol A. Smith
Senior Vice President, Corporate Sales & Marketing Stephen J. McEvoy
Senior Vice President, Group Editorial Director Peter Herbst
Senior Vice President, Group Editorial Director John Owens
Senior Vice President, Consumer Marketing David W. Leckey
Senior Vice President, Manufacturing & Distribution Anthony R. Romano
Senior Vice President, Chief Information Officer John J. Bobay
Vice President, Human Resources Michele Daly
Vice President, Corporate Communications Anne Lattimore Janas
A wholly-owned subsidiary of Hachette Filipacchi Médias, S.A.

To order **back issues** dated within the past two years, send a check or money order for $8.95 ($10.95 from Canada, $15.95 from other countries) per copy to: Woman's Day Specials Back Issues, P.O. Box 50191, Boulder, CO 80322-0191, or call 800-333-8546. Please specify the publication, month and year or volume and number. Contact the above to order Woman's Day SIPs on food, remodeling, decorating, kitchens and baths, gardening and outdoor ideas, crafts, holiday baking and Christmas ideas. **Editorial questions** should be addressed to Woman's Day SIPs, 1633 Broadway, 42nd floor, New York, NY 10019. Unsolicited materials must be accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope. We are not responsible for their safety and cannot enter into correspondence about the submission.

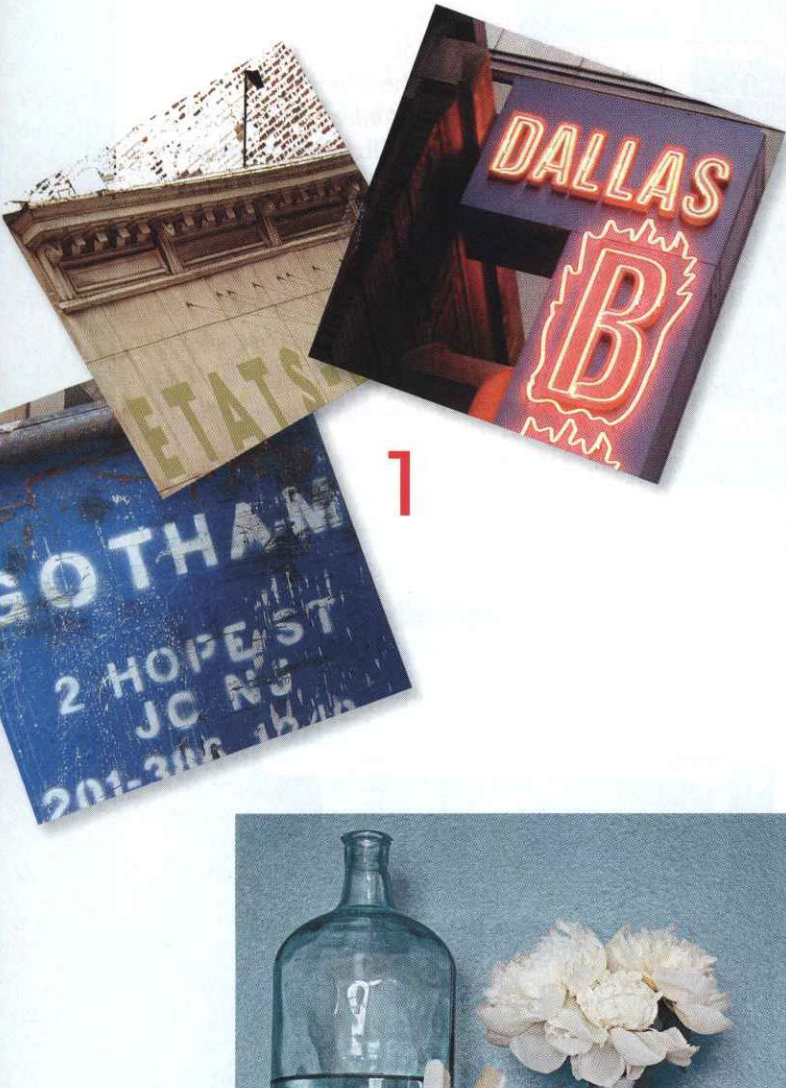
ATTENTION ALL MAGAZINE RETAILERS

Hachette Filipacchi Media U.S., Inc., is pleased to announce a Retail Display Allowance available to all retailers interested in earning a display allowance on the Woman's Day Innovation Series. The display allowance will be paid upon your fulfillment of the terms and conditions of the formal agreement, which will be sent to you upon request. To obtain full details and a copy of the formal agreement, please write to *Marketing Services*, Hachette Filipacchi Media U.S., Inc., 500 West Putnam Avenue, Greenwich, CT 06836. This plan will become effective with all issues of Woman's Day Innovation Series delivered to you subsequent to the date your formal *Retail Display Agreement* is received and accepted by us.

PHOTOGRAPH: TOP, LUCIANA PAMPALONE HAIR AND MAKEUP: STEPHANIE PARENT, FOR MARK EDWARD INC.

Check out the latest ideas and newest finds to enhance your home

WRITTEN BY JENNIFER PRESTIGIACOMO



1



2



3

1. From A to Z

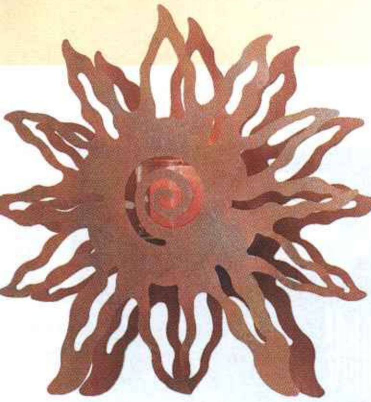
The Urban Alphabet from Bella Muse is a photographic and geographic alphabet. Each 12-inch-square ready-to-hang tile features a place name from A to Z, all from the streets of Manhattan. $105 each. 800-540-0024; *www.bellamuse.com.*

2. Circle Play

CJ Shatz's Happening Curtain is a colorful way to divide rooms or simply decorate them. Made of 69 glossy 4-inch-diameter colored ceramic tiles, it can be hung indoors or out. $1,250. 866-344-5267. *www.happeningcurtains.com.*

3. Metal Winner

Add some shimmer to walls with Ralph Lauren's Regent Metallics, offered in 72 colors (shown in Great Hall). $38 per gallon. 800-553-3199; *www.homedepot.com.*



4



5

4. Day Light
The Sunesta Sun votive sconce in handpainted metal can hang on the wall or sit on a tabletop. $30. 508-830-3100; *www.partylite.com.*

5. Orange Zest
Zia-Priven's Harlow pendant features a crystal ball finial and a silk dupioni shade in tangerine. $490. 718-398-6777; *www.ziapriven.com.*

6



6. Memo to Self
Make even nagging reminders pleasant by tacking them up on pretty fabric-covered memory boards. $35. 800-516-7857; *www.pulppaperproducts.com.*

7. Lucky Charms
Update an old lampshade with Magnificent Trimmings' magnetic crystal light charms. They stick to any iron-based light fixture. About $45 for six. 800-655-8746; *www.magtrim.com.*

8. Fringe Element
Try Pier 1 Import's gauzy rainbow-hued ribbon panel as a light, colorful accent for your window. $40. 800-245-4595; *www.pier1.com.*➤

8





7

information
at your fingertips

Dial up or log on for product information from the following manufacturers:

Alloc
1-877-DO Alloc
www.alloc.com

American Lighting Association
800-BRIGHTIDEAS
www.americanlighting assoc.com

Andersen Windows
800-426-4261 Ext.1100

Armstrong Floor Products
www.armstrong.com

Asko
800-898-1879
www.askousa.com

Avonite
www.avonitesurfaces.com

BioGuard
www.bioguard.com

Bosch Household Products
800-944-2904

Broan
800-692-7626

Brock Deck Systems
800-488-5245
www.royalcrownltd.com

Budget Blinds
800-617-8116

Cosentino Silestone
800-291-1311
www.silestone.com

Dacor
800-793-0093
www.dacor.com

DecKorators
800-332-5724
www.deckorators.com

Delta Faucet Company
800-345-DELTA (3358)
www.deltafaucet.com

DuPont Stainmaster®
800-4DuPont
www.stainmaster carpet.com

Elkay
www.elkayusa.com

Eon® Decking
866-DIAL-EON
www.eonoutdoor.com

EverGrain Decking by Epoch
800-405-0546
www.evergrain.com

Frigo Design
800-836-8746
www.frigdesign.com

ICI Paint
866-391-1955
www.regencycolors.com/wd

In-Sink-Erator
800-558-5712
www.insinkerator.com

Jeld Wen
www.jeld-wen.com

John Boos
888-431-2667
www.johnboos.com

KitchenAid
800-422-1230
www.kitchenaid.com

KraftMaid Cabinetry
800-469-1990
www.kraftmaid.com
www.superkitchens.com

Laticrete
800-243-4788
www.laticrete.com

LG Hi-Macs
866-LG HI-MACS
www.lgvolcanics.com

Lucite® Acrylic
800-253-8881
www.bathworld.com

Lutron
877-2LUTRON
www.lutron.com

Metal Roofing Alliance
www. MetalRoofing.com

Miele
888-346-4353
www.miele.com

Minwax
www.minwax.com

Moen
800-BUY-MOEN
www.moen.com

Mohawk Carpet
800-2-MOHAWK
www.mohawkflooring.com

Mouser Custom Cabinetry
800-345-7537
www.mousercc.com

Panasonic Ventilation Fans
866-292-7292
www.panasonic .com/building

Pittsburgh Corning
800-624-2120
www.pittsburgh corning.com

Runtal Radiators
800-526-2621
www.runtalnorth america.com

Sloan Flushmate
866-873-1846
www.flushmate.com

Sub-Zero
800-444-7820
www.subzero.com

The Iron Shop
www.theironshop.com

Thermador
800-656-9226
www.thermador.com

TimberTech
800-307-7780
www.timbertech.com

True Value Paint
800-323-7545
www.truevaluepaint.com

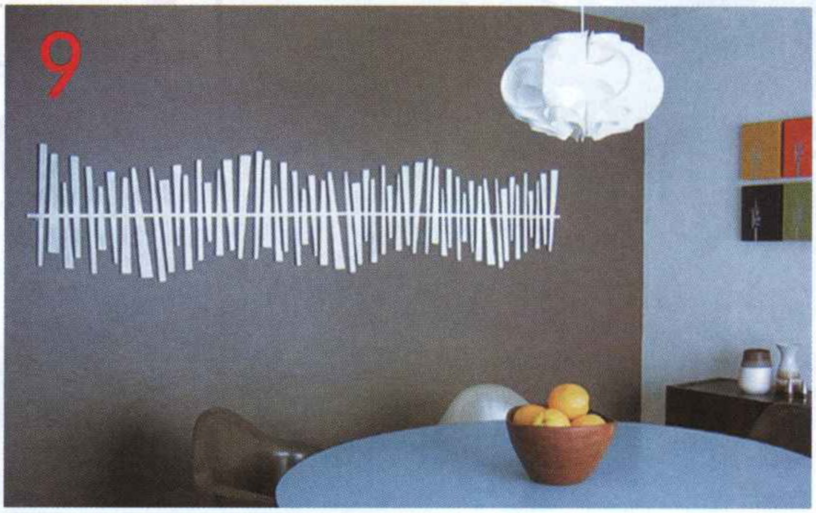
Viking Range Corporation
888-845-4641
www.vikingrange.com

Wellborn
800-336-8040
www.wellborn.com

Wicker Warehouse
www.wickerwarehouse.com

Wolf Appliances
800-332-1405
www.wolfappliance.com

York
800-910-YORK
www.yorkupg.com



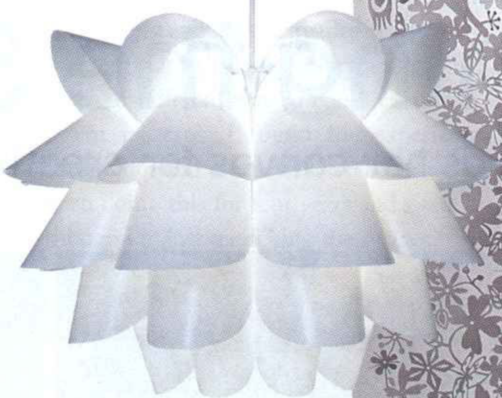


10



12

13





14

9. Easy Does It

Wallter's paintable wall applications make a retro yet fresh statement. Just peel the backing off these wood slats and stick them up. $87. 510-232-5018; *www.wallter.com.*

10. Stay Between the Lines

Creative Evolution offers classes in mural painting, decorative plastering and trompe l'oeil techniques. Test your new skills using their signature stencils ($10 each) for creating designs as well as glazing and plaster processes. 866-775-3289; *www.creativeevolution.net.*

11. Floral Accent

Both the graphic pattern and the juicy hue add to the appeal of Patricia Urquiola's Flower rug. $2,000 for 67×95 inches. 212-421-6701; *www.gandiablasco.com.*

12. Heat Source

Frigo Design's Seared Patina Copper Tiles are hand burned to achieve a unique multicolored look. $7 each. 800-836-8746; *www.frigodesign.com.*

13. A Frosty Glow

Ikea's Knappa pendant casts a soft, warm light despite its cool, frosted look. $25. 800-434-4532; *www.ikea-usa.com.*

14. Clip Art

MoMA Design Store's Until Dawn curtain filters sunlight through laser-cut silhouettes of flora and fauna, creating intriguing shadows. $90. 800-447-6662; *www.momastore.org.*

15. Circular Knit

Inspired by traditional folk art designs, the hand-knit Double Wedding Ring rug adds a shot of warm color. $198 for 23×37 inches. 631-283-5466; *www.judiboisson.com.*

16. Make It Snappy

The Vibeframe is a 25-inch-square frame and preprinted canvas that snap together to make a snazzy statement on any wall. $60. 888-758-7458; *www.plush-living.com.* ■



15



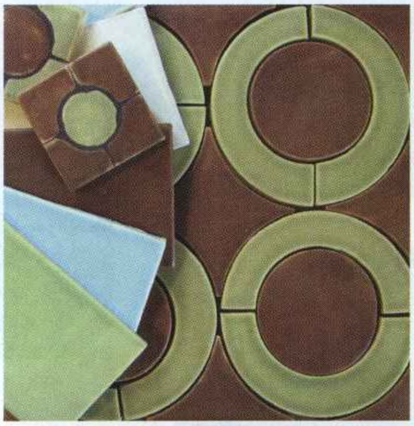
16

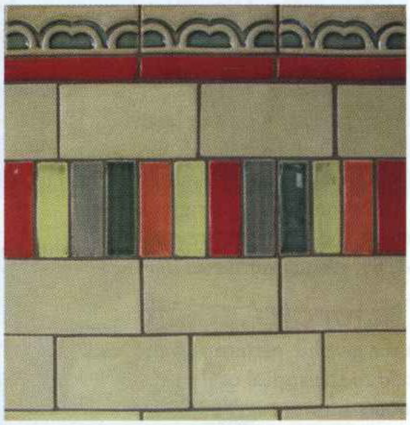
WRITTEN BY MERVYN KAUFMAN

Scratching the Surface

An artist uses tile as her canvas for creative expression

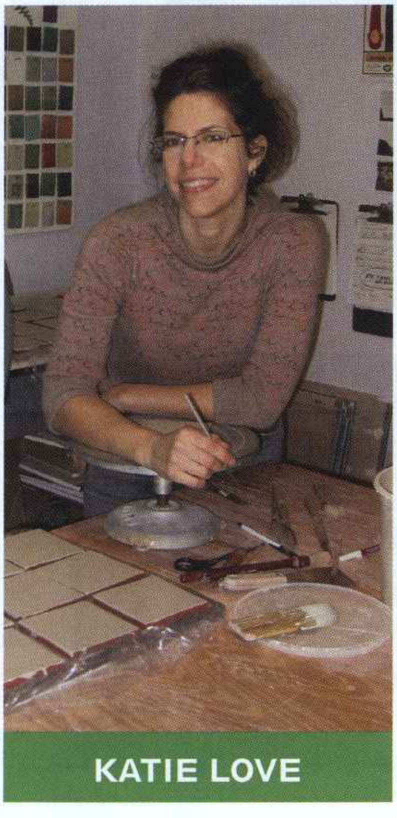
Katie Love started her own business creating handmade tiles in 2003 and hasn't looked back. Employing a variety of techniques such as sgraffito—in which patterns are carved into glaze to reveal the clay underneath—and relief tiles, she loves to play with texture and color. "Every bit of tile is made by hand," she says. She spends her days in a studio in Saugerties, New York, producing tiles for clients and also doing her own work— "usually just experimenting," she says.











KATIE LOVE

ABOVE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Modern Circle Mosaic in Split Pea and Leather brown with field tiles in aquamarine, Split Pea and Antique white; Arch Border with 1×6 inch round molding in red, field tiles in Antique white and 1×4 inch tiles in a mix of colors; Hourglass in Gunmetal black, clear, Antique white and Butter yellow; and Swiss Floral with Split Pea and Leather brown field tiles and a border of clear 2×2 inch tiles and diamond field tiles in Mottled Green.

OPPOSITE: A custom-designed fireplace, hearth and riser feature unglazed red clay tile and clear and bronze glazes. The fireplace surround is made with a variation of Love's Red Chain tile design; the riser is in a randomly placed checker design.

What drew you to ceramics?

My family lived in a small town on Lake Ontario, and I was outdoors a lot. From an early age, I was really into actual earth, so it's funny that I wasn't drawn to ceramics until I was in college. I went to Alfred University, in Alfred, New York, which was known for having one of the best ceramics programs in the world. At that point, I was more interested in illustration and drawing, but because of Alfred's reputation in ceramics, I decided to take a basic course.

When did you know that art would become a career?

After college, I rented a studio in Brooklyn to make pottery. I was showing and selling my work anywhere I could. The pottery I made enabled me to get an artist's residency—10 months at the Watershed Center for Ceramic Art in Newcastle, Maine. That's where I started making tiles.

What did you like about tile design?

I found myself more interested in surface and decoration, color and pattern—all the things that relate to tile design. I started out very simply, making square tiles in one color. I found that by adding colors and glazing them in different ways, I could create different patterns. I found the experience intriguing, and I haven't looked back. I've been doing this for four years and I feel as though I'm just scratching the surface.

What inspires your designs?

I work intuitively—one thing leads to another, and I like to blend modern with traditional designs. My father was into antiques. He loved intricate, detailed work, which always made an impression on me. The pieces I remember most were Arts and Crafts, Art Deco and Art Nouveau styles. What I've taken from such pieces might be only a particular line or curve, but I remember them clearly. Music also sets a mood—I can usually look at my work and recognize the music that inspired me. If I'm listening to something smoky or bluesy, that mood will be reflected in my tiles. My choice of colors goes back to the mood of the music, too.





FAVORITE THINGS

Vintage kitchen tools. I've found lots of these items at flea markets. I think they're cool, and I actually use them as hand tools in my work. I have a tiny cone-shaped rolling pin that I bought and use often. There really is a similarity between cooking and working in clay; a lot of ceramists I know are excellent cooks.

My ceramics collection. I've been accumulating it since college—specific pieces from people I love. I started out just trading with friends, acquaintances and professors. But sometimes I might see an object, such as a cup or a teapot, in a gallery and fall in love with it. For me, every piece of ceramic art is unique; it's special because of the medium—clay. Also, I find that if I like the piece, I'll like the person who made it as well.

My father's antiques collection. He has an extensive collection, which he's been happy to share, so I've been fortunate in being able to have some of the best things for myself—mostly 19th-century pieces, such as a beautiful old dresser. The pieces I have are what my father gave to me because he knew I loved and appreciated them. ■

SEE SOURCES FOR MORE INFORMATION

WRITTEN BY BETH COLLINS

Photo Finish

Tracking down the best picture frames

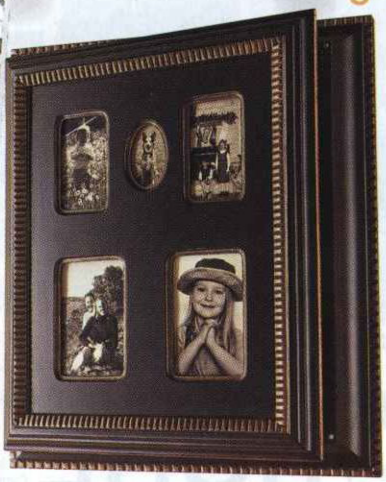
1



2

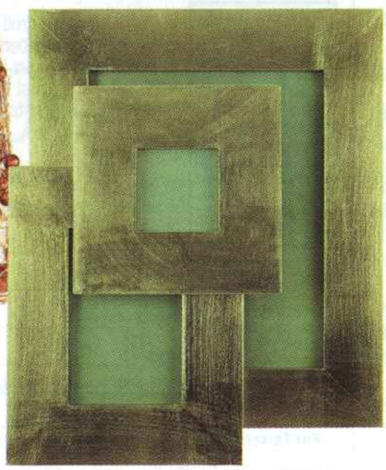


3



4





5

1. Home Sweet Home

Uncommon Goods boasts a great selection of one-of-a-kind frames such as the House Wall Frame, which is made of recycled wood from old boats, houses, schools and buildings in Thailand. $48. 888-365-0056; *www.uncommongoods.com.*

2. Have We Met?

The Metropolitan Museum of Art is a terrific source for striking picture frames, such as the Tiffany Magnolia Frame. Based on details from the famous Magnolia window in the Tiffany mansion, the frame is silver-plated with hand-applied enamel. $95. 800-662-3397; *www.metmuseum.org/store.*

3. The Fab Five

Bombay Company offers nearly 50 framing ideas, including the Thatcher Key Cabinet. Made of wood in a cognac finish, the outside features spaces for five photographs, while inside there's a corkboard for memos and four hooks for keys. $99. 888-226-6229; *www.bombaycompany.com.*

4. Show Off

Pier 1 Imports updates their broad selection of frames every year. Their Amber Beads and Sequins Frame is a great way to draw attention to a favorite snapshot. $20. 800-245-4595; *www.pier1.com.*

5. Catch Some Zzzs

Need the perfect frame for a special photo? Z Gallerie's offering ranges from the classic to the eclectic. These Green Lacquer Frames would make a black and white photo pop. $7 to $13, depending on size. 800-358-8288; *www.zgallerie.com.* ■

Wall borders, textured runners and wood blinds for every budget

LOW · MEDIUM · HIGH



$22

Reflective Leafy Vines Border
800-342-6113;
www.creativewallcovering.com



$25

Oliva Border
800-552-9255;
www.villagehome.com



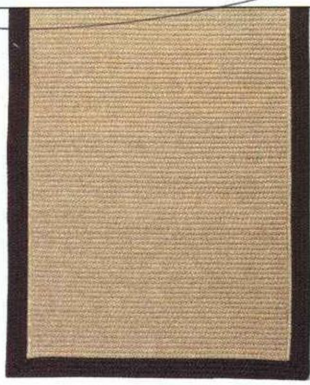
$33

Branch Border
Tropical Oasis collection;
866-967-5925; *www.yorkwall.com*



$35

Basketweave Seagrass Runner
($2\frac{1}{2} \times 7\frac{1}{2}$ feet);
www.overstock.com



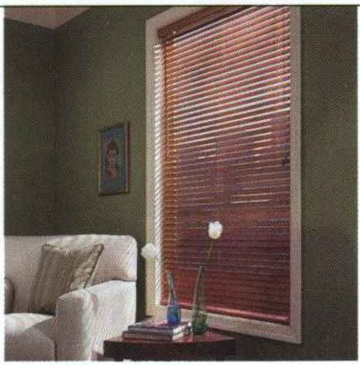
$75

Aspen Indoor/Outdoor Runner
(2×8 feet); 800-222-6161;
www.jcpenney.com



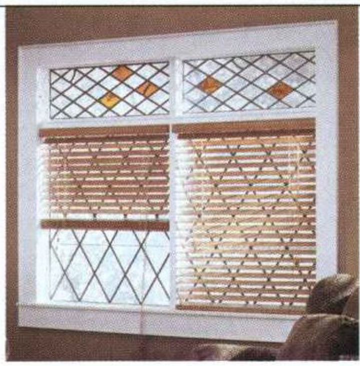
$199

Stripe Border Sisal Runner
($2\frac{1}{2} \times 9$ feet);
888-779-5176; *www.potterybarn.com*



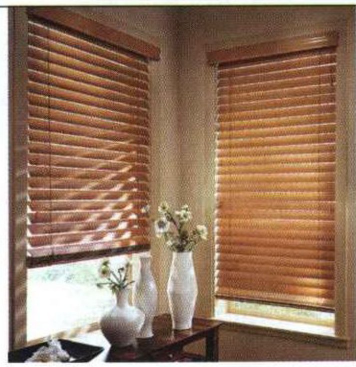
$44

BasicBlindz Oak Wood Blind
(35×64 inches);
800-445-6937; *www.lowes.com*



$80

Real Wood Golden Oak Plantation Blinds
(48×64 inches);
800-538-6567; *www.levelor.com*



$327

Country Woods Blinds in Cottage Pine
(35×64 inches);
800-274-2985; *www.hunterdouglas.com* ■

WRITTEN BY NANCY A. HERRICK

Nate Berkus



Thanks to frequent appearances on *The Oprah Winfrey Show* and featured collections for Linens 'n Things, Nate Berkus (left) may be one of the best-known designers in America. He believes a home should reflect the style of its occupants, and his mission is to help people create environments that are comfortable, original and very personal. Here, he answers your decorating questions.

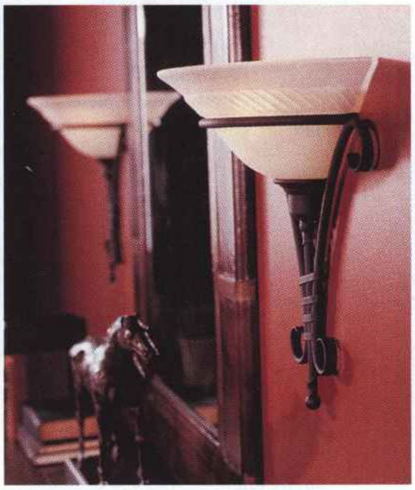
We just bought a house that was built in the 1890s. The bedroom has beautiful wallpaper that is original to the house, but it is damaged and peeling in places. Is there any way to artfully salvage some of it without making it look like I am perpetually in the middle of removing it?

Ellen Greer, St. Johnsbury, Vermont

Many companies offer historical wallpaper designs online, and the truth is that it is probably easier to replace the existing wallpaper with an authentic pattern than trying to deal with what you have.

I also like the idea of matting and framing a large piece of the existing wallpaper that has been salvaged as artwork, and then picking a complementary wallcovering to redo the room, such as a neutral grass cloth. That way, a little piece of your home's history will always be preserved.

If you are committed to keeping it, a decorative painter can clean up the missing areas by re-creating the design by hand.



Is there anything I can do to update a fireplace with an ugly 1970s red brick border?

Mark Guilfoyle, Garden City, New Jersey

There are several ways. The easiest is to simply paint the brick white or a color that matches the trim in the room. It is also possible to reface the brick with natural stone or tile. Or, you can create an entirely different, updated look by adding a new wood surround and mantel to cover up the brick.

I have a very high ceiling with no light fixture in my dining room. My building will not allow me to add the wiring to install one. What would you suggest for lighting the space?

Pamela Ng, La Jolla, California

Try a pair of lamps on dimmers on the sideboard, or a pair of floor lamps in two corners of the room. Dimmers are important for ambience. You also can light candles on the table or sideboard, choosing unscented varieties so that they will not interfere with the aroma of the food.

Adding mirrors to the walls will double the light from any candles or lamps. Wall sconces—either electric or candle lit—are a good bet as well.

Always keep in mind: An overly bright dining room is unflattering to guests. ■

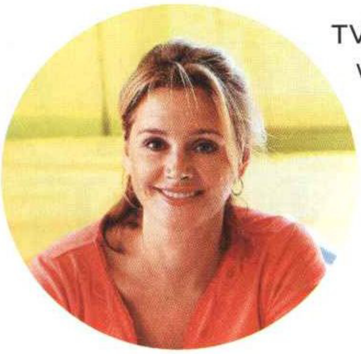
have a question?

Send your decorating dilemmas to:
Ask the Expert
Woman's Day SIPs
1633 Broadway, 42nd Floor
New York, NY 10019
E-mail it to *experts@hfmus.com* or fax it to 212-767-5618. Please include your name, address and daytime phone number. We are unable to reply to every question.

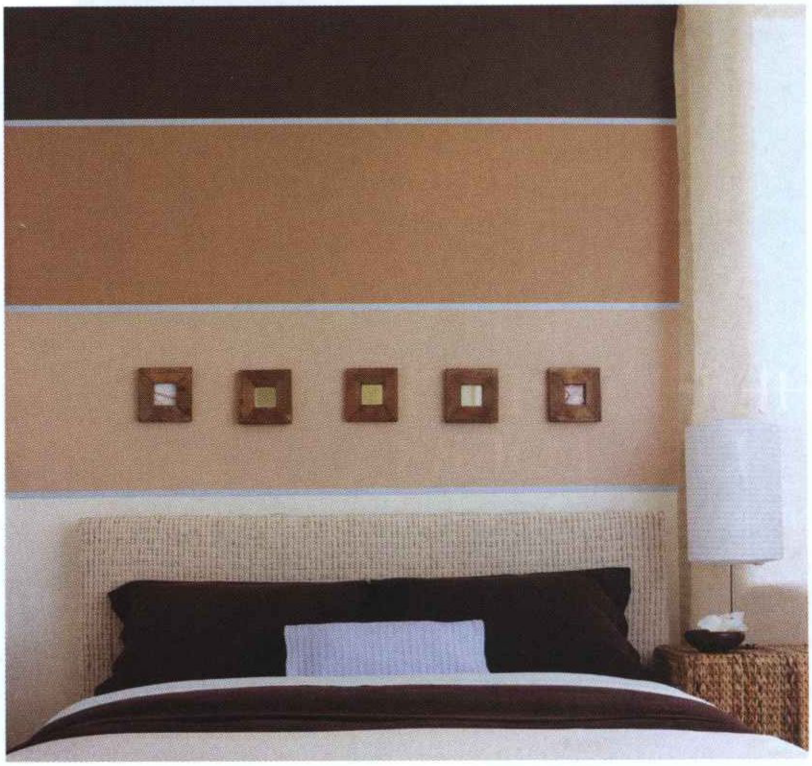
PHOTOGRAPHS: TOP, FERNANDO BENGOECHEA; ABOVE, SEAGULL LIGHTING

WRITTEN BY MELISSA SARVER

The News on Neutrals



TV host and designer Debbie Travis (left) began decorating with paint in her own Victorian home in 1995 and hasn't put down the brush since. Here, she talks about new ways of using neutrals to create serene retreats in your home.



If following the latest bold color trends makes you uneasy, you're not alone. According to paint expert Debbie Travis, author of eight books on home makeovers and host of two HGTV shows, neutral colors are safe, classic and always appealing. "Neutral tones will always belong somewhere in your house, whether it's in your bedroom, bathroom or the areas that connect a house, such as halls and stairways." The tricky part is finding ways of staying neutral without being boring.

While Travis looks to fashion runways and boutique hotels for color and design inspiration, she says it's important to assess the function and mood of a space before choosing colors.

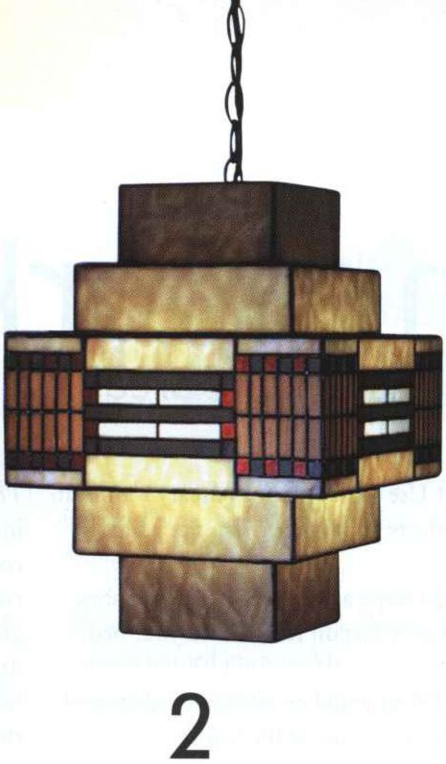
Once you've made a decision about mood, Travis says, the color palette comes easily. To avoid a bland, dull room, Travis suggests adding a bright accent color and working with many different textures. For the bedroom shown here, from *Debbie Travis' Facelift: Solutions to Revitalize Your Home* (Clarkson Potter, 2005), the design team wanted to create a serene look. They painted one wall in bands of neutral shades from off-white to chocolate, accented with stripes of bright baby blue. "The baby blue makes everything pop," says Travis.

If blue isn't your favorite, try raspberry or a metallic silver to keep a relaxing tone. Adding red to warm neutral tones creates a dramatic look; sage green has a traditional, nostalgic look; and citrus yellow gives a modern feel.

Travis stresses the importance of playing with different textures within a space to create interest. "If you're going with a calm mood, you want more organic shapes and slightly modern, clean lines." In the room shown, the many different textures—velvet pillows, a rough-hewn headboard, a rattan cube, small rustic picture frames, thin linen curtains—are all tied together with color. Travis says to avoid "matchy-matchy" decorating where fabrics and wall colors are all the same tone or print. "You'll create a monochromatic space, which is boring. This is the worst way to decorate because there is no contrast," she says.

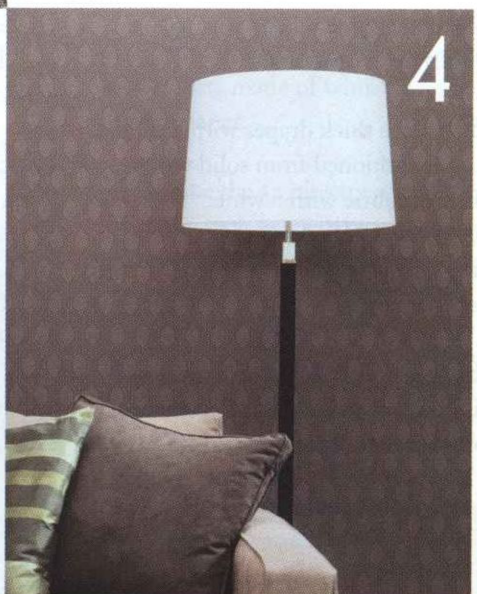
PHOTOGRAPHS, FROM TOP: MANON BOYER, GEORGE ROSS



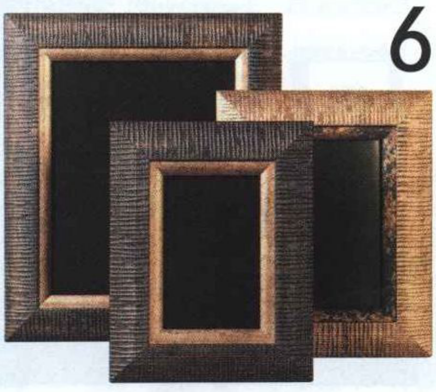


2









6

1. On Neutral Ground

Dress up floors with an oversize classic design like houndstooth Zooty Tooth carpet squares in light brown and brown. \$10 per $19\frac{7}{10}\times19\frac{7}{10}$-inch tile. 866-281-3567; *www.interfaceflor.com.*

2. Mood Lighting

The clean lines and warm hues of this Frank Lloyd Wright–style glass pendant by Dale Tiffany are the perfect addition to a calm space. $11\frac{1}{2}\times14\frac{1}{2}$ inches. \$183. 877-723-5522; *www.bellacor.com.*

3. Squiggle Fun

Decorate your walls with unlimited combinations of funky Blue Letters wall panels by notNeutral. Available individually in Pin up Cork (\$35) or in a set of four in Blonde Ply (\$75). $15\frac{1}{2}$ inches square. 877-411-9600; *www.wrapables.com.*

4. City Chic

Wallpaper can add drama with rich colors and textures. Designer Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen created this textured chocolate-colored Urban paper for Graham & Brown. \$30 per double roll. 800-554-0887; *www.grahambrown.com.*

5. Curtain Call

Spruce up solid walls with a mix of hues, stripes and flowers on cotton window panels. \$45 per panel. 800-245-4595; *www.pier1.com.*

6. Raising Interest

Textured Prado picture frames in antique gold and antique black add allure to dull walls. \$13 to \$17. 800-358-8288; *www.zgallerie.com.* ■

WRITTEN BY DONNA BABYLON

Brighten a Dark Room

Take any room from dank and dreary to bright and cheery

1 Arrange a collection of oversize mirrors on top of the mantel.

2 Brighten up somber walls with wall panels. Arrange decorative molding in large frames on the wall and fill with colorful wallpaper that introduces lighter colors into the room.

3 Install track lighting under kitchen cabinets as an accent and task light.

4 Paint a colorful runner on wooden stairs to brighten up a hallway.

5 Replace a wooden medicine cabinet in the bathroom with a new, fresh light-colored one.

6 Brighten a corner with a simple arrangement of tall branches painted white in a tall white or silver urn.

7 Hang an assortment of glistening crystals from a plain chandelier.

8 Transform a dark-paneled room by painting the paneling a lighter color.

9 Lighten up heavy curtains by adding a layer of sheers in front.

10 Arrange a grouping of framed pictures on the wall that have been matted in white.

11 Use glossy paint in dreary rooms; it reflects light better than flat paint.

12 Drape a shimmering, sheer fabric from a curtain rod behind your bed.

13 Add white crown molding around the perimeter of the room.

14 Paint a mural on one wall to visually open up a room.

15 Replace thick drapes with a simple valance fashioned from solid white fabric or fabric with a white background. While you are at it, make a few pillows from the same fabric and toss them on the sofa or bed.

16 Place a piece of stained glass in a window to catch sunlight and send color throughout the room.

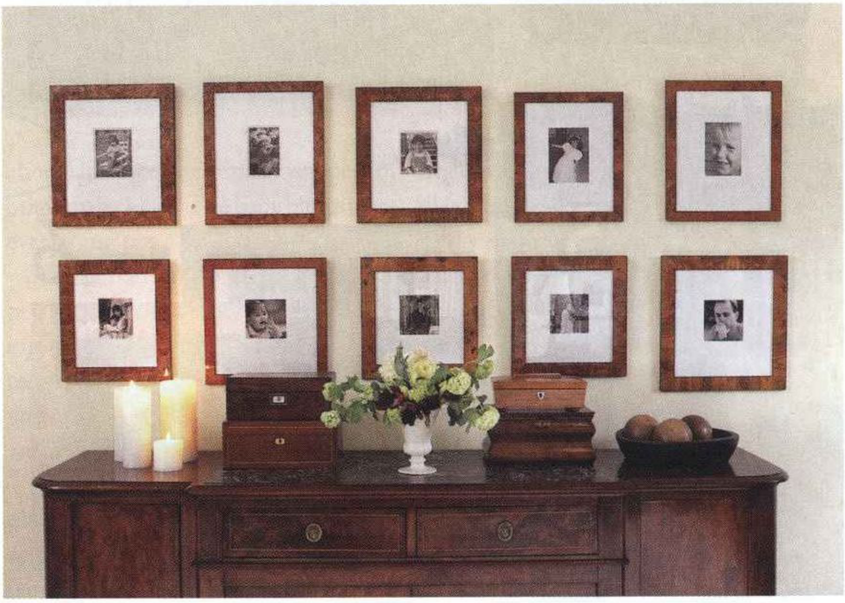
17 Paint old, unwanted vinyl records in multiple shades of one light, bright color. (Don't want to part with your collection? Secondhand stores are great places to find old records.) Then drill four holes in each disc and use S hooks to join them together. Hang them from a decorative rod.

18 Replace heavily framed paintings with light, bright artwork. Display with or without frames.

19 Scatter uplights around the floor. They look especially nice in gloomy corners.

20 Install white-painted floor-to-ceiling columns in an entryway.

21 Create a sense of spaciousness in the foyer with a floor-length mirror.

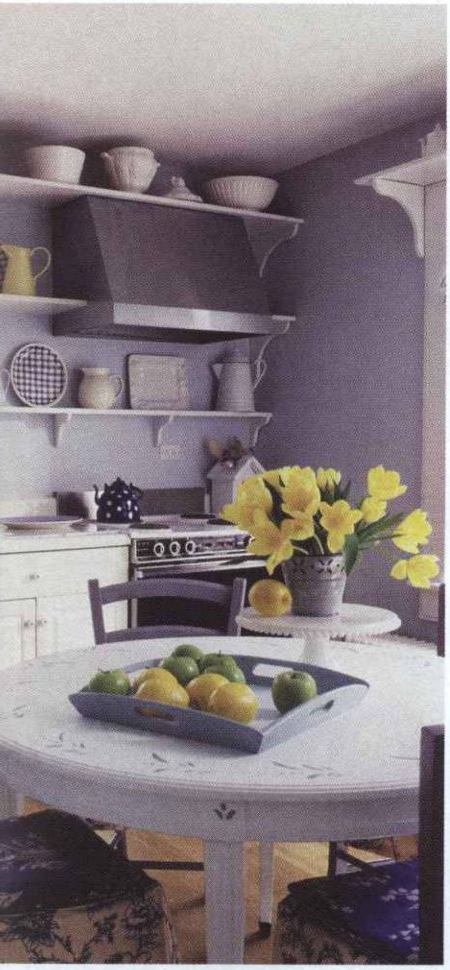


22 Shine up pots and pans and hang them from the kitchen ceiling.

23 Open up your windows by removing busy fabric window treatments. Replace them with white blinds or simple shutters that control light.

24 Accentuate existing framed prints by surrounding each with a larger "frame" that has been painted on the wall in a lighter color.

25 Install recessed lighting with dimmers to add flattering ambient light whenever it's needed.



26 Install a mirror across from a window to reflect natural light.

27 Paint one wall in the room a lighter shade of the color on the remaining walls.

28 Scour flea markets for a collection of unusual framed mirrors. Mix up the sizes, but concentrate on finding large ones. Paint the frames one color and cover an entire wall with them.

29 Cover all the books on a bookshelf with jackets made of white or light-colored paper.

30 Outline the architectural details of the room, such as an arch or a fireplace, with strings of tiny white lights.

31 Add some large throw rugs over existing carpeting to introduce brighter, lighter colors into the room.

32 Line the back of built-in bookshelves or china cabinets with mirrors or silver paper.

33 Create a focal point in the room by centering a large picture, framed in white, on the wall. Surround it with white plates or crystal sconces.

34 Display light or shiny items, such as platters or ironstone dishes, on shelves to brighten a dark wall.



35 Illuminate paintings with battery-powered picture lights.

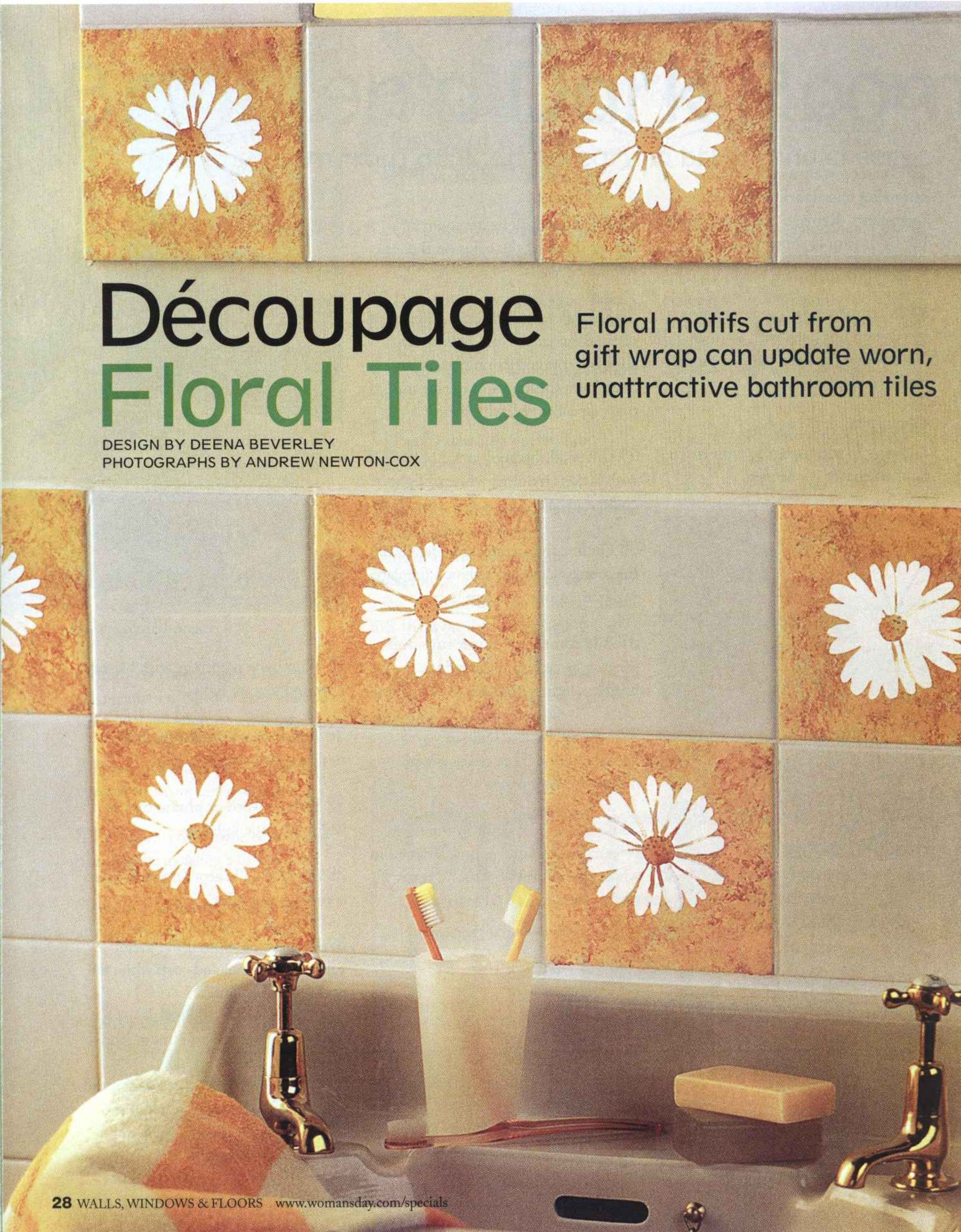
36 Add concealed lighting under molding and ceiling beams.

37 Write a word or phrase on the wall with rope lighting.

38 Replace dull carpeting with light-colored, shiny tiles.

39 Repaint the room using pastel colors for the wall and crisp white for the trim and ceiling.

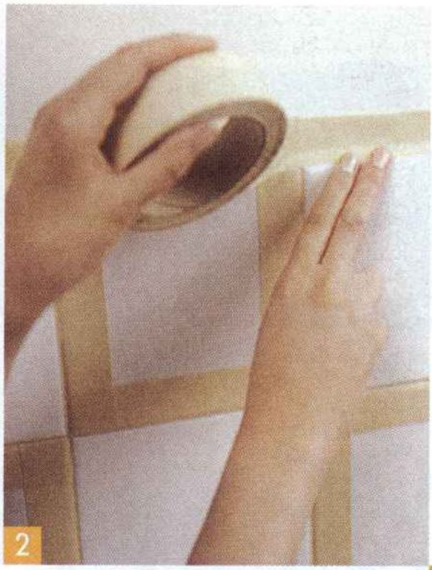
40 Keep clutter to a minimum. Too much "stuff" can be visually suffocating—especially in a dark room. If you need more storage, add some shelves on the walls, or a built-in cabinet in the corner. ■



Découpage Floral Tiles

Floral motifs cut from gift wrap can update worn, unattractive bathroom tiles

DESIGN BY DEENA BEVERLEY
PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANDREW NEWTON-COX


2

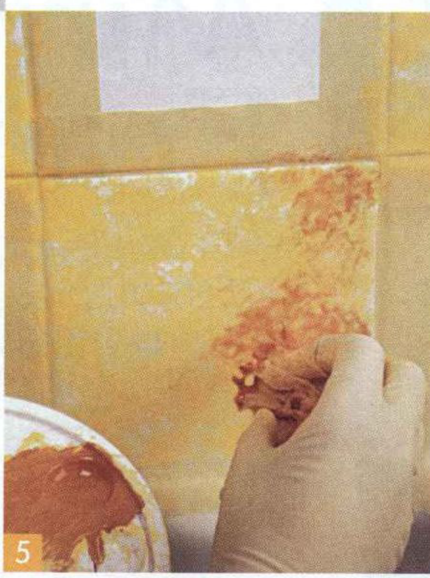
MATERIALS

- Tile cleaner and paper towels
- Protective gloves
- Masking tape
- Cold-set ceramic paints, matte varnish and cleaner-conditioner (use same brand for compatibility)
- Natural sponges
- Paint palette or plastic plate
- Paintbrushes
- Gift wrap with floral motifs
- Découpage or nail scissors
- White craft glue or découpage glue and mixing bowl
- Sponge paintbrush


4

It's much simpler—and cheaper—to revive a tiled surface with paint and découpage than to replace it. We used high-quality gift wrap because the thin paper adheres closely to the tile surface. A sponged coat of ceramic paint disguises old tiles and the floral motifs look truly professional once the sealer is applied.

—*Michele Filon*


5

DAY ONE

1. Clean tiles; wipe dry.

2. Apply masking tape around edges of tiles which won't be painted.

3. Following manufacturer's directions, apply tile conditioner to tiles which will be painted.

4. Using a very small amount of paler base color and a sponge, apply light coat of paint to tiles, allowing original tile color to show through in spots. Let dry.

5. Sponge darker paint on top of lighter color, allowing background to show through. Let dry.


6

6. Cut out floral motifs, eliminating all background color. Cut a flower for each tile, plus several extra.

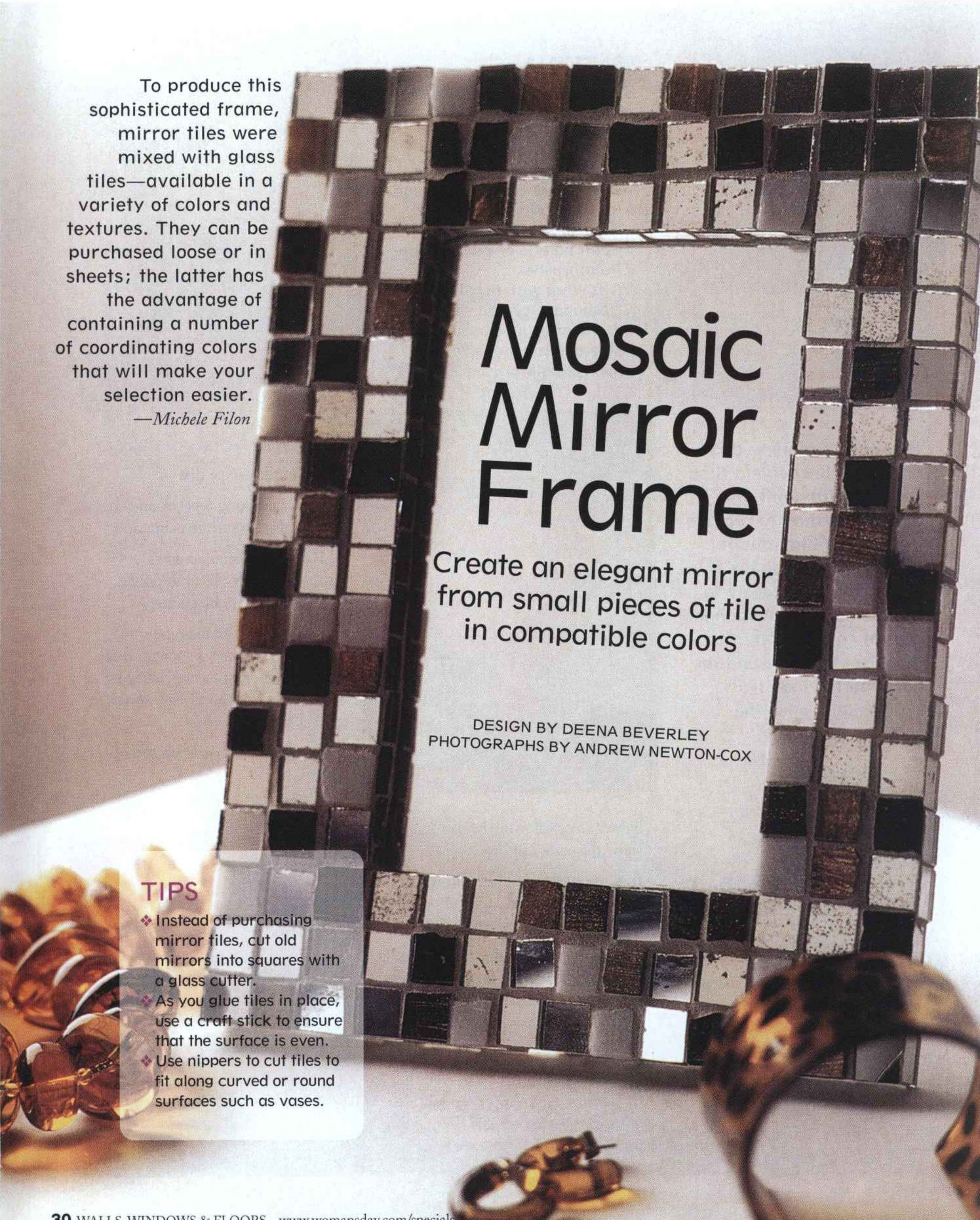
7. Mix equal parts glue and water; brush onto back of a flower. On each tile, center flower; smooth from center out to remove any air bubbles. Let dry.

DAY TWO

8. Remove tape. Apply several coats of varnish to découpaged tiles, letting varnish dry after each coat. ■


7

SEE SOURCES FOR MORE INFORMATION



Mosaic Mirror Frame

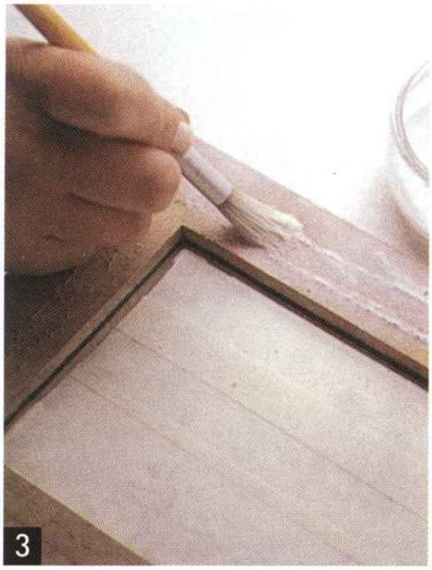
Create an elegant mirror from small pieces of tile in compatible colors

DESIGN BY DEENA BEVERLEY
PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANDREW NEWTON-COX

To produce this sophisticated frame, mirror tiles were mixed with glass tiles—available in a variety of colors and textures. They can be purchased loose or in sheets; the latter has the advantage of containing a number of coordinating colors that will make your selection easier.
—Michele Filon

TIPS

- Instead of purchasing mirror tiles, cut old mirrors into squares with a glass cutter.
- As you glue tiles in place, use a craft stick to ensure that the surface is even.
- Use nippers to cut tiles to fit along curved or round surfaces such as vases.


3

MATERIALS

- ❖ Mirror with wide, flat frame
- ❖ Masking tape
- ❖ Long nail
- ❖ White craft glue
- ❖ Paintbrush
- ❖ Goggles and protective gloves
- ❖ Glass tiles in caramel, copper, black and coffee
- ❖ Tile nippers and adhesive
- ❖ Mirrored square tiles
- ❖ Wood skewers and craft sticks
- ❖ White powdered unsanded grout
- ❖ Clean soft rags
- ❖ Scouring pads
- ❖ Patio cleaner


5

DAY ONE

1. Cover mirror surface with masking tape.

2. Using a nail, scratch surface of frame to create a rough surface for adhesive.

3. Mix equal parts craft glue and water; brush it over the frame to seal it against dampness. Let dry.

4. Wearing goggles and gloves, use nippers to cut glass tiles in half, then into quarters.

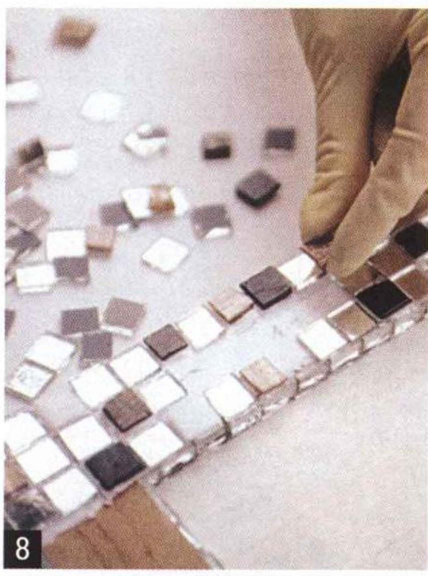
5. Arrange cut tiles on frame to determine spacing. Trim some tiles for better fit if necessary.


7

6. Cut mirror tiles to fit inner and outer edges of frame.

7. Using tile adhesive, glue mirror tiles to inner and outer edges of frame, spacing tiles evenly about $^{1}/_{16}$ inch apart.

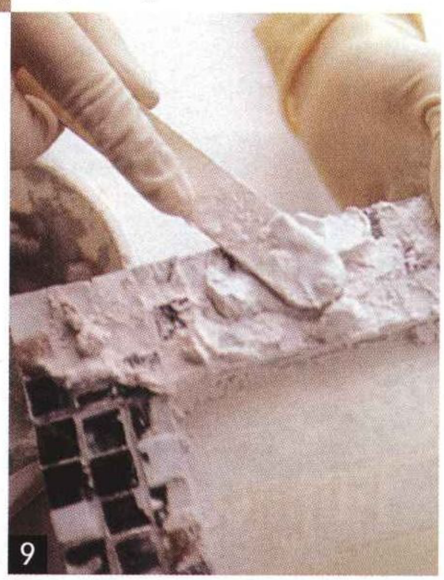
8. Spread adhesive on flat surface of frame. Arrange glass and mirror tiles in random checkerboard pattern. Mirror tiles are thinner than glass tiles, so push glass tiles into adhesive and let mirror tiles sit on adhesive surface. Space tiles evenly about $^{1}/_{16}$ inch apart. Remove excess adhesive with skewer tip. Let dry overnight.


8

DAY TWO

9. Mix 1 part craft glue with 5 parts water; use liquid to mix a fairly stiff, dry grout according to package directions. Use craft stick to spread along vertical, then horizontal, surfaces, pushing grout well into gaps between tiles.

10. Wearing gloves, use dry cloths to remove excess grout, and a scouring pad to remove as much grout from surface as possible. Allow to set for a few days, then, wearing goggles and gloves, wash surface with patio cleaner and polish with soft cloth. Remove masking tape from mirror. ■


9

SEE SOURCES FOR MORE INFORMATION

WRITTEN BY DONNA BABYLON



BUY OR MAKE

Even if you are a sewing novice, consider crafting your own window treatments. A DIY window project can be very easy to make and offers the following benefits:

- **Save money—especially if you purchase the fabric on sale.**
- **Create the ideal window treatment for your decor; you're not limited to only what's available in catalogs or stores.**
- **Make a treatment the correct size and color; you don't have to settle for a less-than-perfect premade option.**
- **Select material you love and that matches your decor perfectly.**



Window Wise

Guidelines for making or buying window treatments



CHOOSING A WINDOW TREATMENT

- Select a style that covers the entire opening of the window—such as a pull-down shade or floor-length curtain—to prevent bright, fabric-damaging sunlight from streaming into the room.
- Consider incorporating a layered window treatment, such as full-length curtains over sheers with a valance as a topper, if you live on a noisy street and need a sound barrier.
- Create privacy from the outside world with a window treatment in an opaque material.
- Block an unattractive view while allowing in natural light with sheer fabrics.
- Keep window treatments away from any heating source to avoid a fire hazard.
- Increase curb appeal by lining window treatments that face the street with either white or off-white lining fabric for a finished look.
- Choose colored or patterned fabrics to add energy to the room, rather than playing it safe with neutral colors.



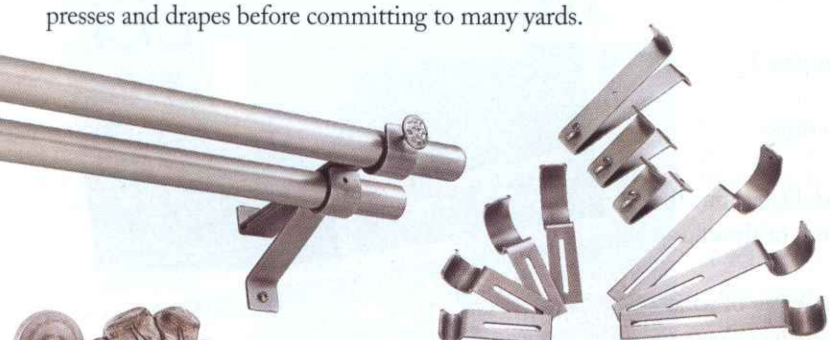
MEASURING TIPS

- Mount the hardware before taking any measurements. More accurate measurements can be taken if the hardware is in place.
- Use a stepladder to reach the top of the window when taking measurements and use a retractable metal tape measure, not cloth or plastic, which can stretch.
- Have someone else hold one end of the tape measure in position when you're taking measurements.
- Measure each window in the same room and record its location. They may all look the same size, but often they are not.
- Measure for the finished length of floor-length curtains in several places across the width of the window. Floors can be uneven and windows may be out of plumb, so use the shortest measurement as the finished length or the curtain will buckle on the bottom edge. If the floor is carpeted, lay a piece of cardboard over the carpet to get more accurate measurements.

PHOTOGRAPHS: ABOVE, JENNIFER LÉVY; BELOW, RYAN BENYI;

FABRIC CONSIDERATIONS

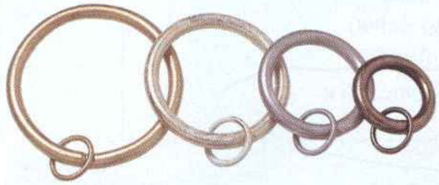
❖ Select the best quality fabric you can afford; the finished project will last longer and look better.
❖ Consider using "seconds." Classified as a second simply because it is slightly off the manufacturer's standard, the fabric may be perfect for you.
❖ Look for fabrics specially made for decorating. They often have finishes applied to resist wrinkles, mildew, soiling and fading. These finishes can make the fabrics more expensive but are beneficial qualities.
❖ Be conscious that the color of a sheer fabric will appear more intense on the roll or bolt.
❖ Choose a solid-colored fabric with an element of texture for visual interest.
❖ Purchase a small amount of fabric and do a test run to see how it sews, presses and drapes before committing to many yards.





SELECTING HARDWARE

❖ Buy good-quality hardware from a reputable manufacturer. Don't try to save money by buying bargain brands—they usually aren't sturdy enough.
❖ Enlist a partner to help you install drapery hardware. Two sets of eyes are better than one when deciding on placement, and two sets of hands make the installation easier.
❖ Allow for clearance between the layers if you'll be placing hardware over an existing treatment that will remain in place (such as adding a valance over floor-length curtains). The recommended distance is 2 inches. This guideline also applies when installing a fabric treatment over vertical or horizontal blinds.
❖ Since window treatments can be very heavy, mount hardware into a stud near the window. If you can't locate a stud, use wall anchors for additional support.
❖ Mount the brackets for the curtain rod 2 to 4 inches above the top edge of the window frame and 2 to 4 inches out from each side of the window frame. Avoid placing the brackets on the window frame if at all possible, as the frame may split.





Window Treatment LINGO

Café curtain—A single pair of short panels hung half the length of the window.
Cellular shade—A window shade that has honeycombed air spaces that allow light through, but create an insulating effect.
Cornice—A window treatment that covers the top portion of the window; usually made from wood and covered with batting and fabric.
Inside mount—When brackets are mounted inside the window frame or opening rather than on the surrounding wall.
Outside mount—When brackets are mounted on the wall outside the window frame or opening.
Panel—A generic term used to describe any floor-length window treatment. This term is also used to describe cut lengths of fabric.
Puddling—The elegant effect of panels hemmed to be longer than floor length. The excess fabric is bunched together in a pile on the floor.
Rod pocket—A method of hanging a window treatment where an actual pocket is stitched at the top to slide a curtain rod through.
Roman shade—A fabric shade with strategically placed rings placed horizontally at equal intervals down its entire length that enables it to be raised and lowered by a pull cord. When raised, the shade gathers into soft folds.
Swag—A draped fabric window treatment shaped in a semicircle.
Tab top—The flat fabric loops at the top of a panel in which a rod slides through.
Valance—Any fabric treatment placed at the top of a window.

MAKE YOUR OWN WINDOW TREATMENT

For this simple project, you will sew nothing more than a big rectangle that is hemmed on all four sides. For best results, select a 54-inch-wide fabric that has some weight or body to it.

Materials

- Decorator fabric (at least 54-inches wide)
- Thread to match the predominant color
- Tape measure
- Iron and ironing board
- Sewing machine (or iron-on seam tape or fabric glue)
- Scissors
- Decorative rod and finials with clip-on drapery rings

1. Hang the curtain rod. Place the rings on the rod. Determine the length of the panels by measuring from the bottom of the clip to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from the floor for a full-length curtain.
2. Add 12 inches to this length. Cut the desired number of panels to this measurement. Cut the first panel and then use it as a pattern for the additional panels. If using a print fabric, make sure all panels are cut out in the same direction and the designs match.
3. Hem the bottom edge of each panel with a double 4-inch hem: Fold over and press 8 inches toward the wrong side of the fabric. Next, tuck in the top of the hem 4 inches to meet the fold. Press. Create a double 2-inch hem on the top edge. Stitch both hems in place. Or, following manufacturer's directions, apply fabric glue or iron-on seam tape.
4. Along each side edge, press and fold double $1\frac{1}{2}$-inch hems: Fold over and press 3 inches toward the wrong side. Next, tuck in the hem $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches to meet the fold. Press, then stitch or glue the side hems in place. The panel will be thick at the corners because of all of the fabric layers, so go slowly when stitching these areas.
5. To hang the panels at the window, start by clipping the two outermost rings to the corners of the panel. Then clip the middle ring to the center of the panel. Attach the remaining rings, spacing them evenly.

FINISHED LENGTHS OF WINDOW TREATMENTS

Valances: $\frac{1}{5}$ to $\frac{1}{6}$ the measurement from the top of the rod to the floor
Floor length: end $\frac{1}{2}$ inch above the floor
Sill length: $\frac{1}{8}$ inch from the top of the window sill
Puddling: at least a foot past the floor



HOT LIST

More Splash Than Cash Window Treatments
Windsor Oak Publishing
P. O. Box 1603
Westminster, MD 21157
410-876-3121
www.moresplashthancash.com

So Simple Window Styles
Creative Homeowner International
24 Park Way
Upper Saddle River, NJ 07458
800-631-7795
www.creativehomeowner.com

How to Dress a Naked Window
KP Publishing
700 E. State Street
Iola, WI 54990
800-258-0929
www.krause.com ■

PHOTOGRAPH: PERFECT GLUE

Do Your Hardwood Floors Look Like Deadwood?



Sealed Hardwood Floors look beautiful and add value to your home. Due to their naturally unique textures and versatility, they add a touch of class to any home but until now dirt, scratches, and everyday foot traffic could ruin the finish and there was nothing you could do except a full refinishing. And that's a big job!

I was just quoted $3,200 to refinish the floors in my home. That's just too high for my budget. To make matters worse, my family and my furniture had to be moved out of the house for a week because of the dusty sanding and dangerous fumes. So I asked my staff…is there an easier way to recapture that once elegant wood finish for a price that we all can afford?



We found a company with some brilliant chemists who found a way to use clear polymers that would fill in everyday scratches and give a deep lustrous shine to badly worn floors. This revolutionary quick drying multi-functional polymer has been developed to renew sealed hardwood floors without harsh chemicals, waxes and petroleum solvents! Even better, we are able to offer it to you for an introductory price of less than $20 for ~~320~~ **640** square feet. This terrific innovation is called Floor Revive and it gives new life to sealed hardwood floors. It improves the appearance of sealed hardwood without costly sanding and refinishing. Just pour it on your hardwood floors and mop it in. It will dry in 40 minutes and the advanced polymer formula minimizes scratches and greatly improves the shine of your floor.

The unique formula Floor Revive can protect your hardwood flooring from stains and discoloration for up to 6 months without the harsh chemicals. There is no build-up, no yellowing and your floors get less slippery because Floor Revive doesn't contain any waxes and petroleum solvents. Floor Revive is the safe and superior alternative to expensive floor refinishing jobs that leave a strong chemical odor behind. It's also great for new floors—just one application will serve as an invisible barrier to preserve your beautiful hardwood floors.







Not Just for Wood.

Floor Revive also remarkably restores marble, slate, concrete, and linoleum floors as well. The exclusive polymer formula improves the shine and offers superior protection on all of these surfaces. Avoid the costs and inconvenience of floor refinishing. *Just Revive it.*

The regular price for this chemical formula is $19.95 for a 16 oz. bottle, but we are so anxious for you to try this ingenious breakthrough that we are giving you a special opportunity. For a limited time you can buy one bottle of Floor Revive and receive the 2nd bottle ***absolutely free!***

We are so sure that you will love Floor Revive, that we offer our 30-day guarantee. If you don't agree that Floor Revive is the most effective way to restore and protect your hardwood floors for just $20, return the unused portion for a full refund of the purchase price.



Call now to take advantage of our special 2-for-1 direct offer.

Hope's Floor Revive $19.95 +S&H.

Promotional Code FRV216-01

Please mention this when you call.

Toll-Free 24 hours a day

800-721-0352

We can also accept your check by phone.

To order by mail call for details.

NEXTTEN 14101 Southcross Drive W., Dept. FRV216-01 Burnsville, Minnesota 55337

WWW.NEXTTEN.COM

VOLUME XVI, NUMBER 2

A FRESH START

After the long, cold winter comes a hint of warm air—spring is on its way. It's the season to think about refreshing and airing out those rooms we've stayed warm in. On the following pages, you'll find all the ideas, tips and inspiration needed to get started.



Update your rooms with color

BRIGHT



PHOTOGRAPH: ERIC ROTH DESIGN: SUSAN SARGENT

IDEAS



WRITTEN BY PAMELA ACUFF

True blue. Red hot. Green with envy. Colors that capture a mood make our rooms come alive to energize or soothe us. Choosing colors that reflect our personality, our moods, or even our dreams, make our spaces truly personal. They transform walls, windows and floors into a haven that we can call home.

VIBRANT

Vivid colors need to be equally strong to achieve an eye-pleasing balance. Side-by-side on the color wheel, regal plum, fresh green and deep blue play off one another, yet work harmoniously.

WALLS Blending the hot intensity of red with cool blue, plum wraps this room in warm elegance.

- Soft white baseboards keep the dark walls from overwhelming.
- A museum print is a riot of earth tones, mirroring the tall, formal windows with a lighthearted nature motif.

WINDOW TREATMENTS

When colors are dramatic, low-key patterns work best. Too much visual stimulation is distracting.

- Leafy green draperies perk up the room, offsetting the richness of the walls.
- The plum lining of the inverted pleat valances cleverly ties walls and windows together.

FLOORING A geometric rug is the room's inspiration piece, laying the foundation for the walls and upholstery.

- Blending colors pulls the room's varied hues into a cohesive whole.
- Spice-toned hardwoods infuse a warm note into the organic color scheme.

DECORATIVE DETAILS

Modernist furniture and playful accents update a room decorated in strong combinations of color.

- Dark royal blue upholstery is a companionable choice, falling between plum and green on the color wheel.
- Citrus-hued throw pillows add a tang while visually echoing the rug's grid.
- An offbeat black bull and a black table act as foils to the landscape of colors.
- Cut flowers are a finishing touch.

BOLD



Pink is the new power shade, adding high style with high contrast. An exuberant rose paired with whites is confident and decisive, but romantic at heart.

WALLS

A step down from red, a rosy-salmon hue creates a happy environment—and complements skin tones.

- Pink, deepening from pastel to bold, looks fresh and edgy. Saturated instead of saccharine, it's all grown-up.
- Wide, bright white molding and wainscoting make the pink pop.
- Oversize white mats make a grouping of botanical prints a natural focal point.

WINDOW TREATMENTS

Contemporary plantation shutters bounce light off the rosy walls to suffuse the room with a cheerful glow.

- Using only two colors with a strong contrast imparts a stark, modern sensibility.
- Symmetrical windows should be dressed identically. Painted a gloss white, the shutters stand out, yet blend in with the surrounding trim and fireplace.

FLOORING

An Oriental rug in a tapestry of pinks anchors the room.

- The gentility of the colors is offset by the graphic pattern, maintaining synergy.
- Layered over pale hardwoods, the rug's plush pile mixes textures and tones within the same colorway to add depth.

DECORATIVE DETAILS

Clean lines and white slipcovers are yin to the pink's yang, keeping the space unisex.

- Against the richly colored walls, lush green plants warm opposite corners of the room.
- Celery and gold throw pillows echo the gold-rimmed mirror and ceramic tiers of faux lemons on the mantle.
- Light furniture keeps the contrast, but softens the look.
- Silvery metals, shimmering glass and lit candles beam light and add sparkle.





PHOTOGRAPH: MARK LOHMAN

BREEZY



Blue and white are kindred spirits, creating a restful retreat that welcomes with open arms. The mood is light and airy, like a vacation that rejuvenates, even as it calms and soothes.

WALLS A deep, rich navy blue conjures up thoughts of sea and sky. Interplayed with a crisp wicker white, it turns a bedroom into a serene getaway.

- Using a dark color floor-to-ceiling can be claustrophobic. Painting the wall navy to just above chair-rail height, with glossy white woodwork underneath, is refreshing.
- The white louvered headboard reinforces the pared-down feel.

WINDOW TREATMENTS
Light-filtering white curtains capture summer's charm with easy simplicity that keeps everything fuss free.

- Hung above the door frame, a white rod mimics molding. The matching café rings make it easy to open the curtains to maximize sunlight and the view.
- Crisp canvas Roman shades are equally relaxed, adding texture without color.

FLOORING A splash of red heats up what could otherwise be a too-cool space, toning down the navy without detracting from it.

- A soft red scatter rug is a balm to bare feet.
- Sand-colored hardwood floors underscore the day-at-the-beach relaxed ambiance.

DECORATIVE DETAILS
Accessories are cool, calm and definitely collected.

- White and red paint unites mismatched furniture with fresh and breezy abandon.
- The coverlet's nautical motif is carried to the pillows. Blue-and-white checked and striped fabrics add diversity, while imparting a ship-shape feel.
- Red Adirondack chairs provide casual seating and the inspiration for the whitewashed lamp bases.

Try a Sample!

Not so long ago, choosing a paint color for a room was largely a guessing game. You'd pick your shade, buy enough for the room, and hope that it would look as good in your home as it did on the two-inch paint swatch. Finally, paint companies have caught on and now offer the following creative solutions to the color conundrum.

Benjamin Moore Color Samples come in 2-ounce containers, providing enough paint to cover a 2x2-foot area with two coats of paint. $3.50 each. 800-344-0400; *www.benjamin moore.com.*



Glidden's solution to finding the perfect color is its **Color@Home Peel & Stick** paint samples. Available in six collections of 10 colors each, the 3x6-inch swatches are self-adhesive and repositionable. $3 each. 800-454-3336; *www.glidden.com.*



Available in 288 shades, **Pratt & Lambert's Never Compromise Color Selector** line (not shown) covers all the color bases. The containers are user-friendly, with domed lids that show a color chip and the color name and number, and wide openings that allow you to use a full-size 2-inch brush to apply the paint. $4 each. *www.prattandlambert.com.*

With **Color to Go**, from **Sherwin Williams** (not shown), you get the color of your choice in a mini-sized Twist-n-Pour container. $5 each. *www.sherwin-williams.com.*

Available in the company's most popular colors, **True Value's Color Made Simple "Color Auditions"** each hold four ounces of paint, giving you at least four square feet of color. $4 each. *www.truevaluepaint.com.* —*Beth Collins*



ELEGANT

A monochromatic room combines the sophistication of neutrals with a wardrobe of textures to create an environment that's fashionably chic, yet versatile.

WALLS

Soft, creamy walls make a room a work of art, showcasing everything in it to best advantage.

- Neutral walls don't have to be plain or even painted. Iridescent striped wallpaper dresses them up radiantly.
- Artwork and photos in mixed-media frames are tied together with eggshell mats.
- The glass rimmed mirror above the mantel reflects the room's sophisticated appeal.

WINDOW TREATMENTS

Matching the draperies to the wall enhances the room's tranquility.

- Nubbly oatmeal linen is a subtle contradiction to the wallpaper's silky sheen. Casual tab tops keep these floor-length formal panels from being stuffy.
- The curtain rod, covered in fabric, becomes unobtrusive.

FLOORING

Layering carpets use gradations of the same color to deliver understated style.

- A popcorn shag border frames an area rug, which frames an ottoman in the same shape and tone. The vanilla palette provides a cosmopolitan contrast to the chocolate woods.
- Sisal wall-to-wall carpeting notches the tone-on-tone texture up a level.

DECORATIVE DETAILS

A luxurious mix of fabrics and accessories shows off personal style.

- Oyster-colored silks and damasks add to the shimmer of lustrous mother-of-pearl and shell accents.
- Silver candlesticks, picture frames and a table lamp mix with glass objects to inject sparkle.
- Everyday books and baskets assume an aura of glamour next to opulent mohair throws and embellished pillows. ■



Let's face it, some walls can't be resurrected with just a coat or two of paint. Perhaps they're uneven, or require patching and sanding. Instead of putting your time into repairs, try this technique. It will not only cover up an ugly wall, but it's an interesting and eye-catching focal point. —*Michele Filon*



This distinctive project is sure to get your walls noticed

CORRUGATED CARDBOARD WALL

1 Measure height and length of wall. Divide each measurement by 24 (the width of the cardboard) to determine number of strips to cut, rounding up. For example, if the wall is 11 feet long (132 inches), 5½ strips are needed, so round up to 6 strips. Most walls are 8 feet high (96 inches), so this would equate to 4 strips placed horizontally.

2 Cut horizontal and vertical strips as needed. Spray each with flame retardant; let dry.

3 Starting in one corner, attach first vertical strip: align upper corners with top of wall, then staple at upper right and upper left corners.

4 Attach next vertical strip: Place it next to first strip, but staple it to wall 27 inches from top of wall (strip will droop at upper edge, since it's not attached at top). Attach remaining vertical strips in same manner, alternating stapling them at top and part way down. At other corner, use craft knife to trim excess cardboard as needed.

5 Attach first horizontal strip at top of wall. Place this strip over first vertical strip, aligning top and left edges, and staple through both layers along top edge. Lift drooping second vertical strip so it covers top of horizontal strip, and staple through both layers along top edge. Continue stapling strips in same manner across top of wall, creating woven effect.

6 Weave next horizontal strip over and under vertical strips. Staple strip to wall at one corner. When horizontal strip is under a vertical strip, staple the horizontal strip to the wall so the vertical strip hides the staples. Staple strip to wall at other corner.

7 Continue weaving horizontal strips in same manner to cover wall.

8 As you come to switch plates or electrical outlet covers, remove plates and cut cardboard to fit opening. Apply electrical tape along cardboard edges before replacing plates. ■

MATERIALS

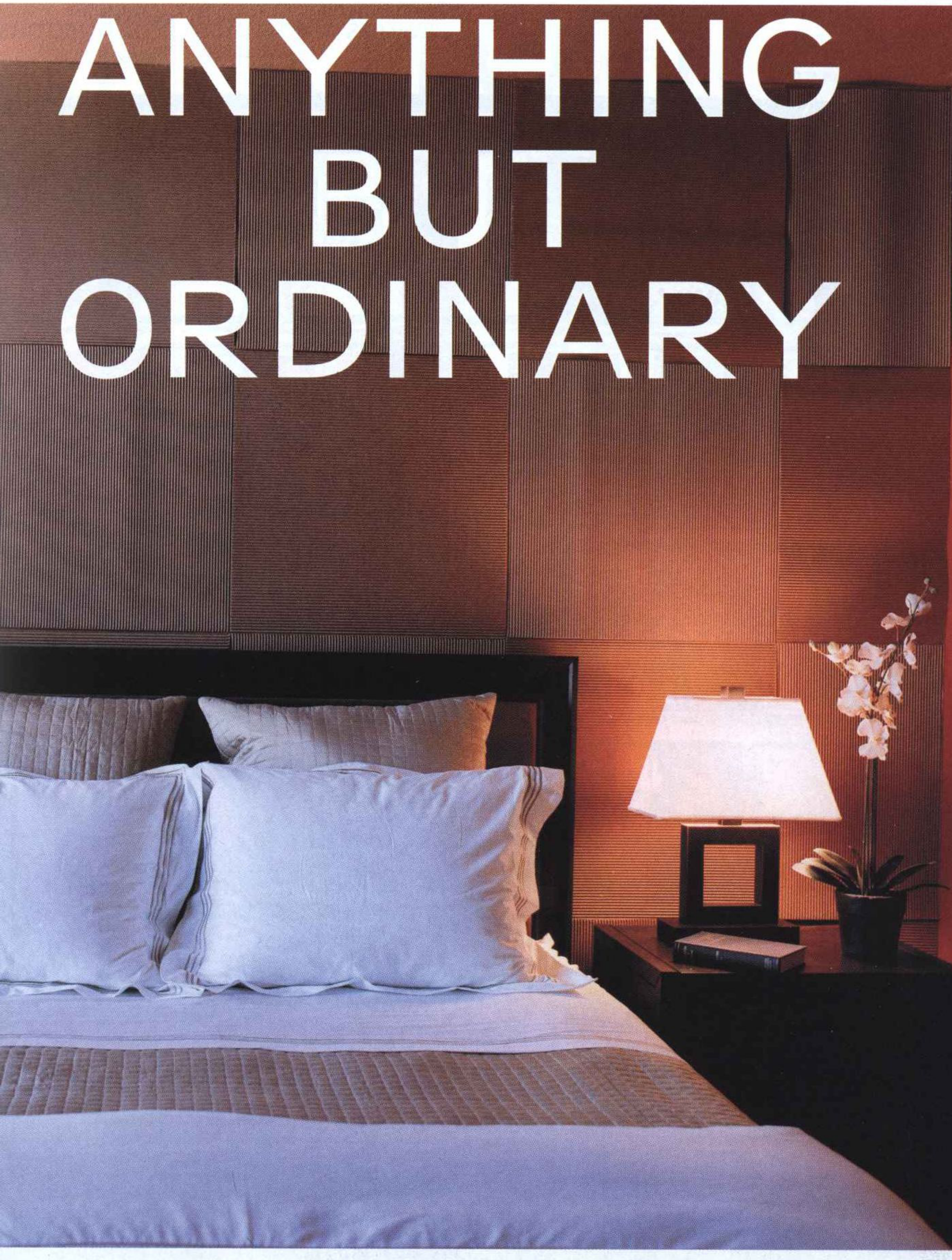
- ❖ Tape measure
- ❖ 24-inch-wide roll of b-flute corrugated cardboard (from box supply or shipping store)
- ❖ Scissors
- ❖ Flame-retardant spray
- ❖ Staple gun
- ❖ Craft knife
- ❖ Electrical tape

TIPS

- For added texture, buy cardboard rolls in several widths and weave the strips randomly.
- Apply some strips corrugated side out and some strips with the corrugated side facing the wall.
- To prevent dust from settling into the cardboard's grooves, give the wall a quick dusting every few days.

DESIGN BY JONATHAN FONG
PHOTOGRAPH BY JESSICA BOONE

ANYTHING BUT ORDINARY



SEE SOURCES FOR MORE INFORMATION

7 ways to display photographs



Image is everything, so try two dozen of them strung in a wall-size mural. Color copy twenty-four 8x10-inch images and string them into vertical panels of four with monofilament wire. Hang six panels from a wooden dowel to create a vibrant focal point.

SEE SOURCES FOR MORE INFORMATION

PHOTOPLAY



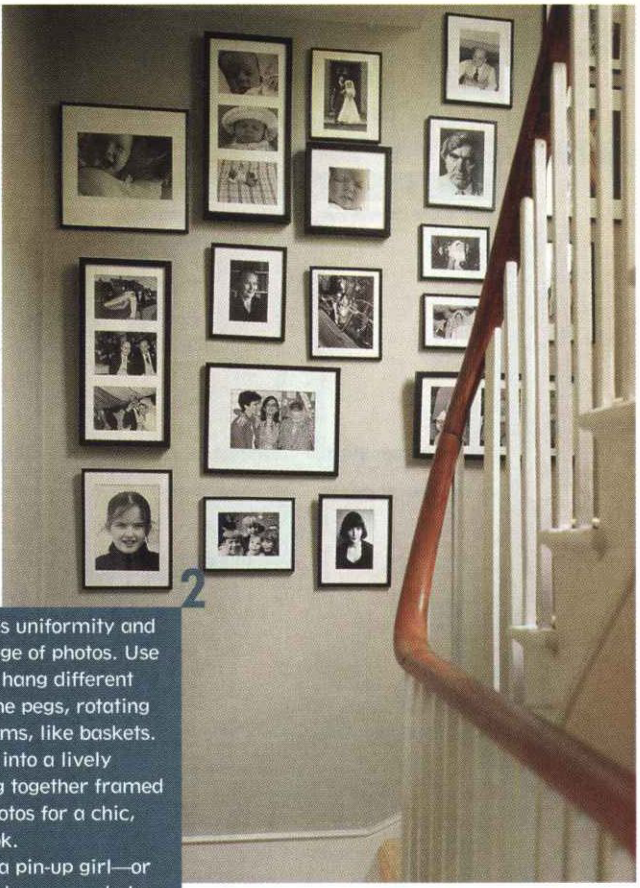
By adding matching frames and a variety of mat sizes, your photo album becomes a memory wall. Display rows of black-and-white photos around a central theme, such as a wedding, birthdays or vacations to create a cohesive look.

WRITTEN BY PAMELA ACUFF

A photo is a snapshot of time, a happy memory preserved on paper to be relived again and again. All too often, we stash these treasured heirlooms away in a box, instead of using them to add personality, character and a sense of ourselves to our homes. Here we show you many ways to put photos on display so memories become part of your everyday decor.



1

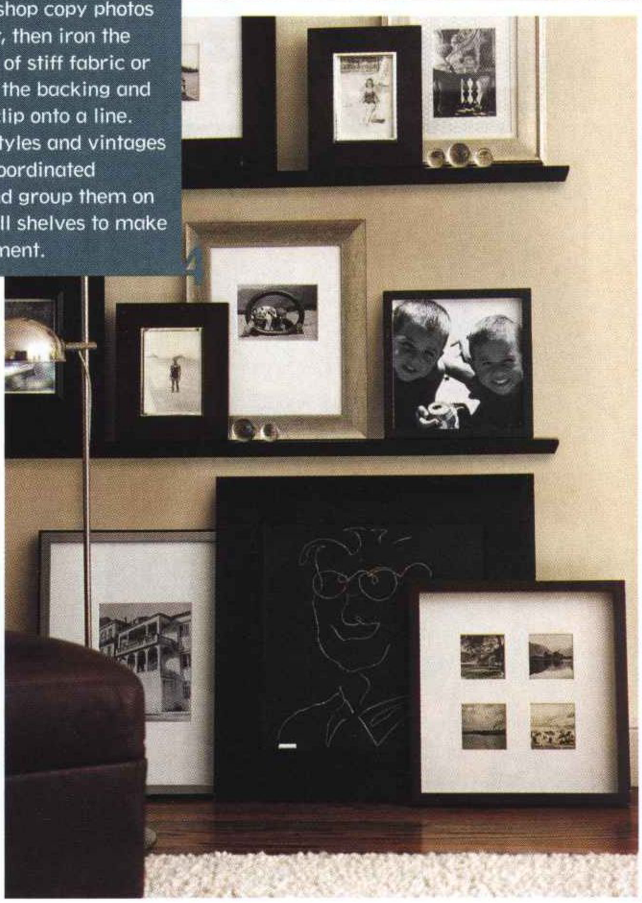


2

1. A peg rack brings uniformity and style to a hodgepodge of photos. Use twine or ribbons to hang different size frames from the pegs, rotating them with other items, like baskets.
2. Turn dead space into a lively gallery by grouping together framed black-and-white photos for a chic, monochromatic look.
3. Anybody can be a pin-up girl—or guy. Have a photo shop copy photos onto transfer paper, then iron the images onto pieces of stiff fabric or cardstock. Peel off the backing and use clothespins to clip onto a line.
4. Blend all sizes, styles and vintages of photos in color-coordinated modern frames, and group them on the floor and on wall shelves to make a striking arrangement.



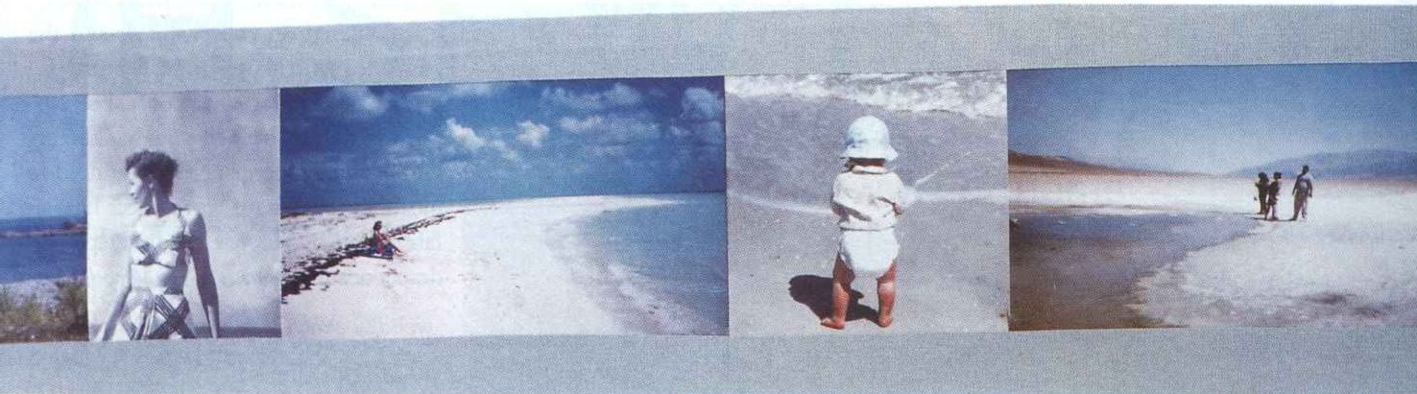
3

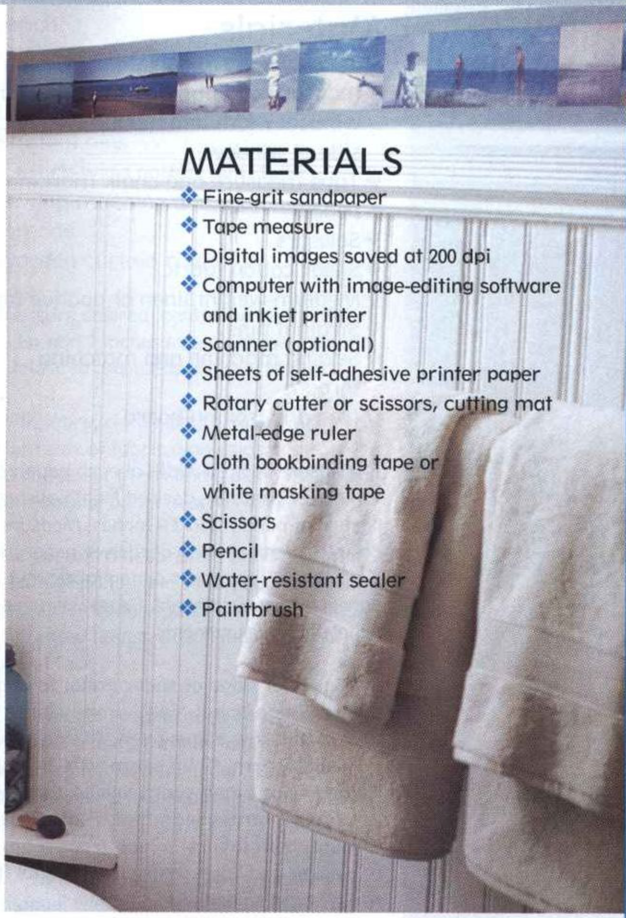


4

PHOTOGRAPHS: THIS PAGE; 1, © 2003 TIM YOUNG/*IDEAL HOME*/IPC+SYNDICATION; 2, © 2005 WINFRIED HEINZE/*LIVING ETC.*/IPC+SYNDICATION; 3, RENÉE FRINKING/*ARIADNE AT HOME*/SANOMA SYNDICATION; 4, DAVID MATHESON FROM *POTTERY BARN STYLE RECIPES: PHOTOS*, © 2004 WELDON OWEN INC. AND POTTERY BARN. OPPOSITE: FROM *PHOTOCRAFT:*

SEE SOURCES FOR MORE INFORMATION





MATERIALS

- ❖ Fine-grit sandpaper
- ❖ Tape measure
- ❖ Digital images saved at 200 dpi
- ❖ Computer with image-editing software and inkjet printer
- ❖ Scanner (optional)
- ❖ Sheets of self-adhesive printer paper
- ❖ Rotary cutter or scissors, cutting mat
- ❖ Metal-edge ruler
- ❖ Cloth bookbinding tape or white masking tape
- ❖ Scissors
- ❖ Pencil
- ❖ Water-resistant sealer
- ❖ Paintbrush

TIPS

❖ This project can be done without a computer by using a color copier at a copy shop. Be sure to test the water-resistant sealer first to be sure it doesn't smear the printouts.

❖ If the chair rail border will not be mounted on a bathroom wall, a water-resistant sealer is not necessary; however, it's a good idea to apply a UV protection coating so the images don't fade.

CHAIR RAIL BORDER

Create a personalized wallpaper border using your own photographs or images from magazines themed to fit the room. Scan in the images you'd like to use (or have them done at a copy shop), or start with your own digital photos. Then arrange them to create a border, and in a few hours you'll have given your room a mini-makeover.

1. Lightly sand the wall. Measure desired length and height of the border.

2. Open digital images in image-editing program. If you wish to work with images from magazines or other nondigital images, scan them in first and save them at 200 dpi before opening them. Resize images so they are all the desired border height (width of each image can vary).

3. Print images onto self-adhesive paper. To conserve paper, save several images in the same document and print them onto the paper in multiples.

4. Cut out images and arrange them in desired order; do not remove paper backing.

5. Cut binding tape to desired width. Position tape at upper edge of chair rail or desired lower edge of border. Using pencil, mark upper edge of tape on wall.

6. Peel paper backing off first image and position on wall, placing lower edge along pencil line. Position each image in same manner, butting edges. Smooth images from center out to remove air bubbles.

7. Coat images with sealer; let dry.

8. Peel backing off one strip of tape; position it along lower edge of border, overlapping images by 1/16 inch. Apply remaining tape along upper edge of border in same manner. Add vertical strips around windows and doors, if needed. ■



TIPS

- Adjust the measurements of the sheer and opaque panels to provide as much privacy as you need while letting in light.
- If the panels are so lightweight that they won't hang right, add a ball chain into each hem to weight the lower edges.

Curtains vary from sheer to heavy, so select a style based on your window and the ambience you'd like to create. For minimal privacy and natural light, choose sheer fabrics and simple styles, like our hankie curtain or semi-sheer panels. If you need to block an unpleasant view, select heavier fabrics and draped styles, like our tape-tied drapes or simple swag. —*Michele Filon*

SEMI-SHEER PANELS

Materials

- Two swing-arm curtain rods, each measuring slightly less than half of window width and mounted on each side of window
- Tape measure and chalk marking pencil
- Scissors
- Sheer cotton fabric
- Medium-weight linen or opaque fabric
- Straight pins
- Sewing machine and matching threads
- Iron and ironing board

1 Measure desired width of each panel; add 1½ inches. Measure desired length of sheer portion of panel; add 3¾ inches. Measure desired length of linen portion of panel; add 1¾ inches. From sheer cotton fabric, cut 2 panels to measurements. From linen, cut 2 panels to measurements.

2 Pin lower edge of sheer panel to upper edge of linen panel, with wrong sides facing and raw edges even. Pin and stitch in ⅜-inch seam. Trim seam to ¼ inch. Fold fabrics along seam line so right sides are facing; press seam flat. Pin and stitch through both layers ⅜ inch from seam, enclosing previous seam. Open panel flat; press seam to one side.

3 To hem panels, turn under ⅜ inch, then ⅜ inch again, on panel sides; press and stitch close to folds. Turn under ½ inch, then ½ inch again, on lower edges; press. To make mitered corners, open out folded lower corners; fold in corners at 45-degree angle and press. Trim excess fabric to fold mark. Fold lowers hems into place again; pin and stitch close to edges.

4 To hem upper edge and form curtain rod pockets, turn under ½ inch, then 2½ inch, on upper edges; press. Mark lines ½ inch and 1¾ inch from upper edge. Stitch along lines to form rod pocket. Slip panels onto rods.

SEE SOURCES FOR MORE INFORMATI

OH SEW EASY!

Quick-stitch window treatments



TAPE-TIED DRAPES

Materials

- Curtain rod, mounted above window frame
- Tape measure and chalk marking pencil
- Heavy linen fabric
- Scissors
- Iron and ironing board
- Straight pins
- 1¼-inch-wide cotton twill tape
- Sewing machine and matching threads
- Wooden curtain rings

1 Measure desired length and width of panels; add 2 inches to each measurement. Cut fabric to this measurement for each.

2 With fabric right side up, fold 1-inch hems to right side of fabric along side edges; press. Fold and press 1-inch hems along upper and lower edges of panel in same way.

3 For an extra decorative band, cut tape to width of panel; pin tape about 10 inches above lower edge of panel, tucking ends into pressed edges. Stitch close to both edges of tape.

4 Cut 2 pieces of tape, each 1 inch longer than panel length. Pin tape along both side edges of panel, turning under ½ inch on each end. Stitch close to all edges of tape to hem sides.

5 Cut 2 pieces of tape, each 1 inch longer than panel width. To hem lower edge, apply one piece in same way as for sides.

6 Cut seven 30-inch pieces of tape for ties (ties should be spaced about 8 inches apart; adjust number of ties if needed). Turn under ¼ inch on each short end of each tie; press, then stitch close to folds to hem. Fold each tie in half crosswise; pin a tie at each side edge of panel and space remaining ties evenly across top of panel, placing tie folds about ½ inch below upper edge of panel.

7 Pin and stitch remaining tape to upper edge of panel in same way as for sides and lower edge, catching tie folds in stitching.

8 Tie a tape to each curtain ring; hang panels.

TIPS

- Instead of solid-color cotton tape, try wide tapestry trim or a print fabric as edgings.
- Cut the tape ties slightly longer, then tie them directly to the rod instead of using curtain rings.



SIMPLE SWAG

Materials

- 1×6-inch wood board, cut slightly wider than window frame (for batten), and mounting hardware (brackets and screws)
- Linen or raw silk fabric
- Scissors
- Heavy-duty staple gun
- Tape measure and chalk marking pencil
- Iron and ironing board
- Sewing machine and matching threads
- ½ inch-wide ribbon and contrasting fabric (for ties)
- Straight pins
- Heavy-duty cotton thread

1 Cut a piece of fabric 15 inches wide by batten length plus 2 inches. Wrap and staple fabric around batten. Mount batten over frame.

2 Cut a piece of 45-inch-wide fabric to batten length plus 40 inches (for drop).

3 Turn under ⅜ inch, then ⅜ inch again, on short ends and one long edge of fabric; press. Stitch close to folds to hem swag.

4 Turn up ⅜ inch on remaining raw edge of fabric; press. Pin ribbon to this edge, covering raw edge of fabric; stitch close to both edges of ribbon.

5 To make ties, cut two 8×4½-inch strips of contrasting fabric. Fold each strip in half lengthwise, with right sides facing and raw edges even. Stitch ½ inch from long edge and one short edge; turn right side out. Press. Turn under ½ inch on remaining edges; slip-stitch edge.

6 Fold swag in half crosswise to find center; staple center of swag to upper edge of batten at center. Continue stapling fabric out to each corner of batten.

7 At each corner, gather swag into folds, forming pleats as you gather. Tie heavy-duty thread over gathers at each corner.

8 Wrap ties around gathers; staple ends of ties to batten.

TIPS

- Choose loosely woven fabrics for the best drape.
- To add height to the window, mount the swag above the frame.

HANKIE CURTAINS

Materials

- ❖ Curtain rod, mounted in window frame
- ❖ Assorted hankies in similar sizes and weights
- ❖ Matching threads
- ❖ Hand-sewing needle
- ❖ Grommets and attaching tool
- ❖ Curtain rings

1 Arrange hankies on work surface or floor to achieve desired arrangement to fit window. The curtain should measure approximately the same as the window width and length to keep the look airy.

2 Hand stitch hankies together at each corner and at center of each side.

3 Attach grommets evenly spaced about 8 inches apart across top of curtain panel.

4 Slip rings through grommets; hang curtain on rod.

TIPS

❖ Buy large quantities of hankies on eBay or at flea markets and thrift shops.

❖ If you're using vintage cotton or linen hankies, remove any stains before you start by soaking them in very hot water mixed with an oxygen-based powder detergent, or a detergent-booster like Biz. Rinse and repeat until water stays clear. Never use chlorine bleach, which weakens the fibers. ■



SEE SOURCES FOR MORE INFORMATION

Good ideas for hard-to-decorate windows

SMART



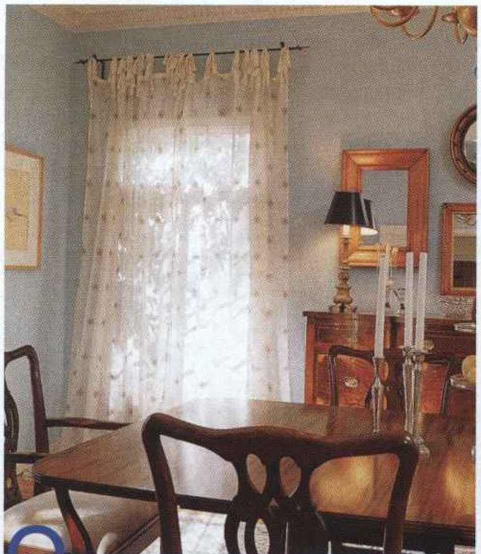
WRITTEN BY BERNADETTE BACZYNSKI

SOLUTIONS

Big or small, ordinary or unique, all windows deserve an equal opportunity to show themselves to best advantage. On these pages, we give you advice about window treatments that work and look good at the same time.

Q Our French doors overlook a gorgeous view. Leaving them unadorned seems too severe, so can you suggest a good way to frame this view unobtrusively?

A You're right to want to keep things simple. A soft swag in a contrasting accent color will blend with the room's decor as well as frame the view with a punch of color. Unless privacy is an issue, side panels, shades or blinds aren't necessary. If you do want to incorporate them, make sure they're simple and that, when opened, they clear the window frame so as not to block the view.



Q My dining room is decorated in a formal, traditional style. I was thinking of using simple sheer panels, but is there a way to give them some zing?

A Tied tab tops give these unstuffy sheers a subtle contemporary touch, as does hanging them from a black wrought iron rod, installed about 12 inches above the top of the window. Tabs also let you pull them back easily to reveal the view. But what really gives these panels some flair is the fabric's subtle gold sunburst pattern, which picks up the tones of the brass chandelier and the mirror frames.



Q Any ideas for unfussy window treatments in a country kitchen? I don't need to cover them completely, but I would like some privacy.

A Rather than a traditional country look, try picking up the warm wood tones of the kitchen's pine table, chairs and accessories. For instance, these simple bamboo shades lend warmth, a bit of sophistication, and a measure of privacy to the room's country style. In addition, their horizontal lines are a nice juxtaposition to the vertical lines of the beadboard walls.



Q The only place for my bed is beneath two high windows. How do I make the bed and the windows work together?

A Consider the windows an extension of the headboard, both in design and in color, giving them a simple style that complements the feminine bed frame and linens. Here, stationary white sheers, topped with a delicate swag that repeats the linens' primary color, create the sense of a canopy. For design continuity, the sheers are subtly adorned with a fern pattern, as are the linens. The swag also serves to hide rolled-up window shades necessary for privacy and light control.

Q A row of oddly shaped windows has left our master bedroom with little wall space for our large bed. What can we do to create some?

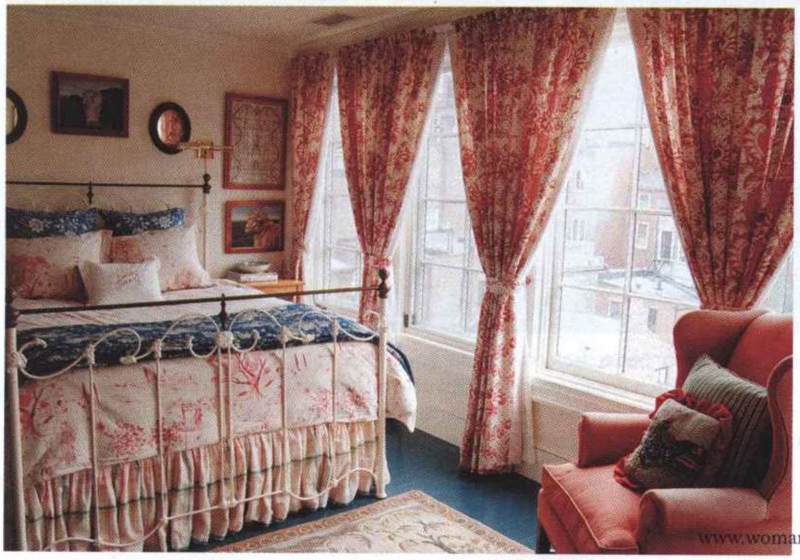
A Short of making structural changes to the wall to tame the unruly windows, why not simply cover them with a sleek, floor-to-ceiling drapery to form a soft backdrop behind the elegant four-poster bed. Note that the right drapery panel is sized to open conveniently for access to the adjoining terrace. The room's other windows, custom-fitted with shutters for privacy, let in light and a view.





Q I live in Hawaii. My guest room has lots of windows, including a bay where the bed doubles as a sofa. How do I provide privacy without interfering with the views?

A Try stitched-tuck shades, as simple and direct in style as your room's furnishings. Narrow top-stitched tucks give these Roman shades a very tailored look, adding a strong horizontal to the room. The background color of the shades should blend with the wall color, and any pattern should be subtle and unobtrusive; here, the faint leaf pattern complements both the view and the room's natural elements. Give top edges a finished look with plain, narrow valances.



Q One of my bedroom walls has a row of beautiful tall windows. Draw-draperies seem too modern for my traditional style, and I'm not fond of shades. What can I do to create privacy?

A Floor-to-ceiling lined stationary panels, installed right at ceiling height, will add a simple yet elegant touch to your bedroom. Use tiebacks, with rings sewn onto both ends, that can be fastened on hooks installed on window casings to open the panels or close them for privacy. ■

JOYCE JORDAN; BELOW, BRAD MORASH

FINISHING



This unconventional valance has a decidedly exotic flair. Embellished with a crosshatch design made of cord as well as yarn rosettes with small mirror centers, the colorful treatment is finished with ball-shaped tassels.

The right trim can dress up any window treatment

TOUCHES

WRITTEN BY BERNADETTE BACZYNSKI

Just as the perfect accessory can make an outfit, the right trim can take curtains from so-so to extra special. The smallest touch can give a ready-made window treatment a stylish boost or make a costly custom treatment even grander.



Contrasting fringe, which picks up the deepest lilac tones of the matching plaid drape, allows the curved lines of the valance to stand out. Adding self-cording at the top edge and contrasting cord at the seam give this treatment a high-end, custom look.

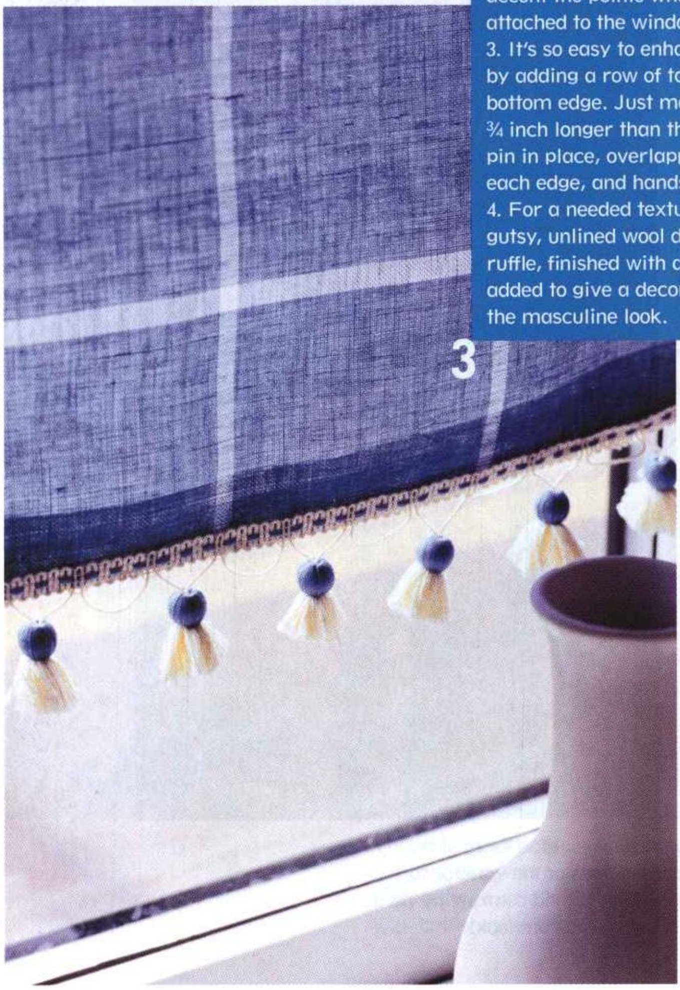


1



2

1. A linen tablecloth, with top edge turned and pressed to create a self-valance, becomes a tailored window treatment. Use iron-on tape to add a delicate pink ribbon trim about ½-inch from the valance edge and hang with clip-on rings.
2. In this peaceful sitting room, a simple swagged drapery turns dramatic with the addition of a contrasting lining. For a custom touch, two same-fabric rosettes accent the points where the drapery is attached to the window frame.
3. It's so easy to enhance the look of a blind by adding a row of tassel trim along the bottom edge. Just measure and cut trim ¾ inch longer than the blind's width. Then pin in place, overlapping excess trim at each edge, and handstitch.
4. For a needed textural contrast to these gutsy, unlined wool drapes, a linen scrim ruffle, finished with a silky braid, was added to give a decorative touch and soften the masculine look.



3



4

PHOTOGRAPHS: 1, SIMON WHITMORE/*IDEAL HOME*/ICP+ SYNDICATION; 2, MARK LOHMAN; 3, SIMON WHITMORE/RETNA LTD; 4, FROM *SIMPLE SOFT*

Give the simplest window treatment a design edge with bold or subtle trim to set off its style.



1 Bead-Dazzled

Liven up even the most drab fabrics with beaded trims like this Frosted Bead Leaf Fringe from M&J Trimming. $25 per yard. 800-965-8746; *www.mjtrim.com.*

2 Brimming with Trimming

Kravet offers a wide range of trims, such as this Green Loop Fringe (approximately $60 per yard) and the Pink/Orange Rust Chenille Tassel Fringe (approximately $70 per yard). 800-645-9068; *www.kravet.com.*

3 Here Comes the Sun

Brighten up your patio fabrics with this Coral Menthe fringe, from Ardwyn Decorative Trim's indoor/outdoor "Elements" line, a Sunbrella trademark. $5 to $15 per yard, depending on fringe length and retailer. 973-751-4002.

4 Corner the Market

From the traditional Tassel Fringe ($38 per yard) to the contemporary Gelato Fringe ($12 per yard), Calico Corners has a trim for every taste. 800-213-6366; *www.calicocorners.com.*

5 Fancy Fringe

With its clean edges and covered wooden beads, the Candy Berry fringe from HouseFabric.com is a great way to add polish to a sophisticated look. $12.95 per yard. 314-968-0090; *www.housefabric.com.* —*Beth Collins*

TRIM TERMS

Choose one trim or mix and match several to adorn a window treatment. For best results, choose a trim of similar weight to the curtain fabric with the same care requirements.

Braid is flat trim that is finished along both edges. Fan-edge braid has a looped finish on one edge.

Cord is twisted threads that form a ropelike trim with no seam edge, often sewn on by hand. Flanged cord (or cord-edge) has a seam edge attached.

Fringe has a braided top and lengths of cord at the bottom. Popular varieties of fringe include brush, ball, tasseled and boullion.

Piping is thin (less than ⅛-inch in diameter) cord that's encased in bias-cut fabric, with a seam edge for attaching; called welting when larger in diameter.

Tassels are long strands of thread that are tied and folded in half and then wrapped tightly just beyond the fold to form a "skirt." Often the loops above the tie are concealed in a simple or elaborate ceramic, metal or wood casing.

Rosettes are circular adornments made of gathered fabric or coiled cord, often attached at corners or where two treatments meet.

Ruffles are strips of fabric that can be gathered or pleated. ■

SEE SOURCES FOR MORE INFORMATION

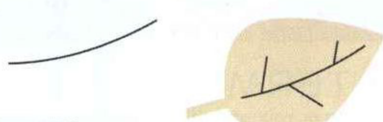
MADE IN THE SHADE

Basic window treatments get a lift with these simple spruce-ups

WRITTEN BY PAMELA ACUFF ❖ PHOTOGRAPHS BY TATE CARLSON ❖ ILLUSTRATIONS BY MEGAN NOLLER



Shades are the little black dress of the window world—accessorize them right and they'll go anywhere. They're classic, practical and can be sized to fit almost any window. Add a few designer touches and even plain shades look completely custom. Start with a ready-made shade or a length of fabric that's ready to hang. Launder and iron the fabric, tape it flat, then use fabric paint to create just the right shade for any room in your house.

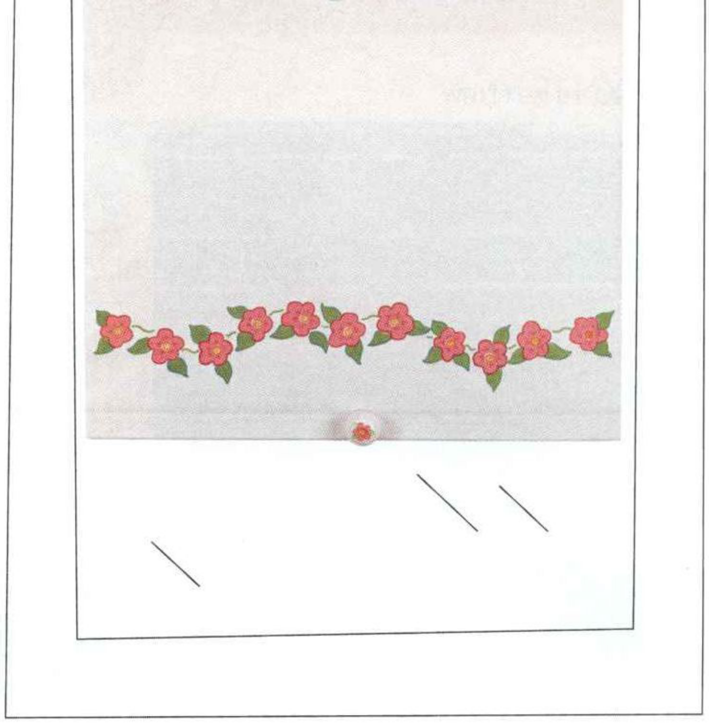


◂ Stamp Collection

A plaid tent-flap shade turns over a new leaf when stamped with vivid foliage. Apply paint to a leaf-shaped rubber stamp and press it onto the back of the shade. Lift, reapply paint and repeat, following your marks. For multicolor designs, brush different colors of paint on different areas of the stamp. Hang the shade, flipping one side back to reveal the stamped design.

SEE SOURCES FOR MORE INFORMATIO





▲ Make Your Mark

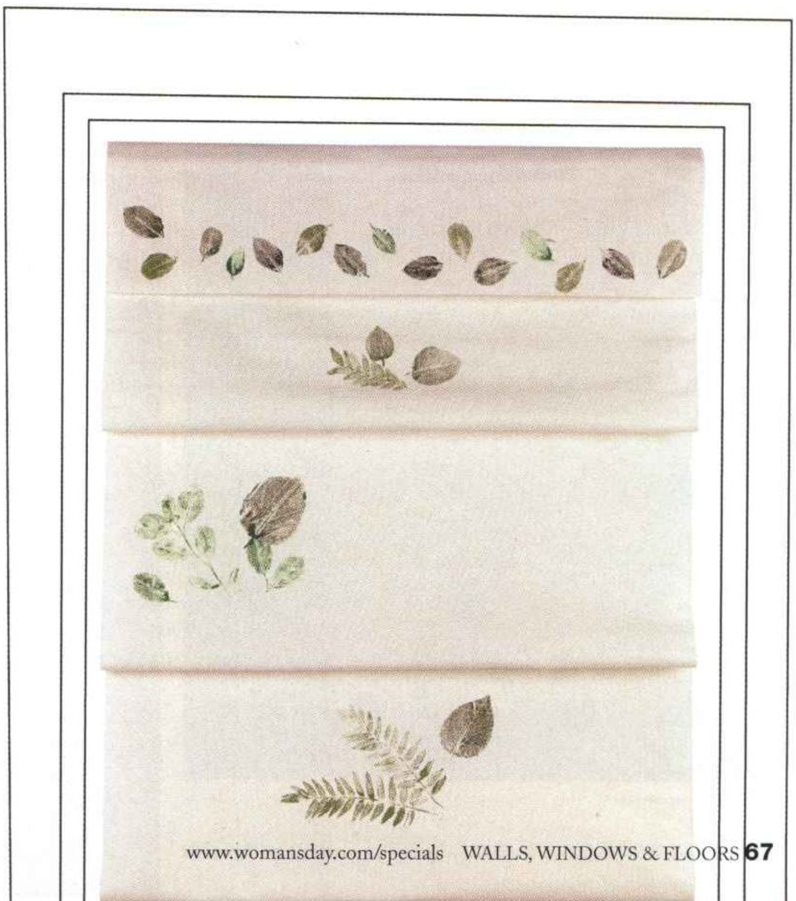
A sunny floral border makes an inexpensive vinyl shade look garden fresh. Transfer your design to the bottom of the shade using smudge-proof transfer paper. Fill in with paint markers, working toward yourself to avoid blurring. Paint a matching design on a white ceramic cabinet knob and glue it to the shade to make a decorative pull. Let dry for 24 hours before rolling.

▲ Get Rolling

Precut stencils turn a solid color roll-up shade into a work of art. Mark the design on the shade with masking tape. Spray adhesive on the back of a stencil, press it in place, and use an almost-dry brush or sponge to dab paint in the stencil opening. Carefully reposition the stencil at the next mark, repeating until the design is complete. Let dry, then use a press cloth and dry iron to heat-set the paint.

Shade Tree ▶

Roman shades make a good impression with a botanical makeover. Press fresh leaves between the pages of a book. Lightly brush green paint on the back of a leaf, then following your design, place the leaf paint side down on the fabric and cover with wax paper. Roll a rubber brayer over the leaf to imprint. Remove the wax paper and leaf, let the paint dry, then heat-set the design with a dry iron and press cloth. ■



FLOOR

Enhance your rooms with these fun throw rugs

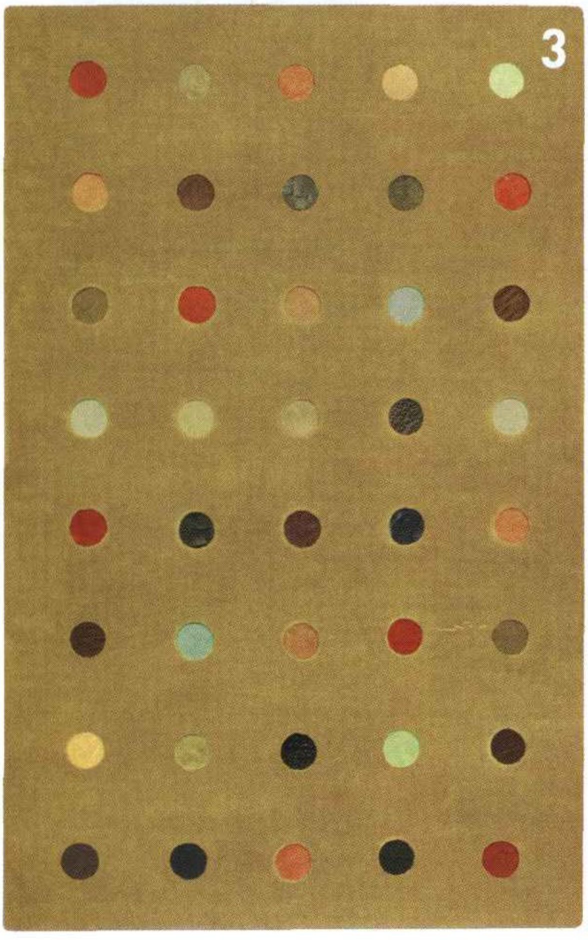


1

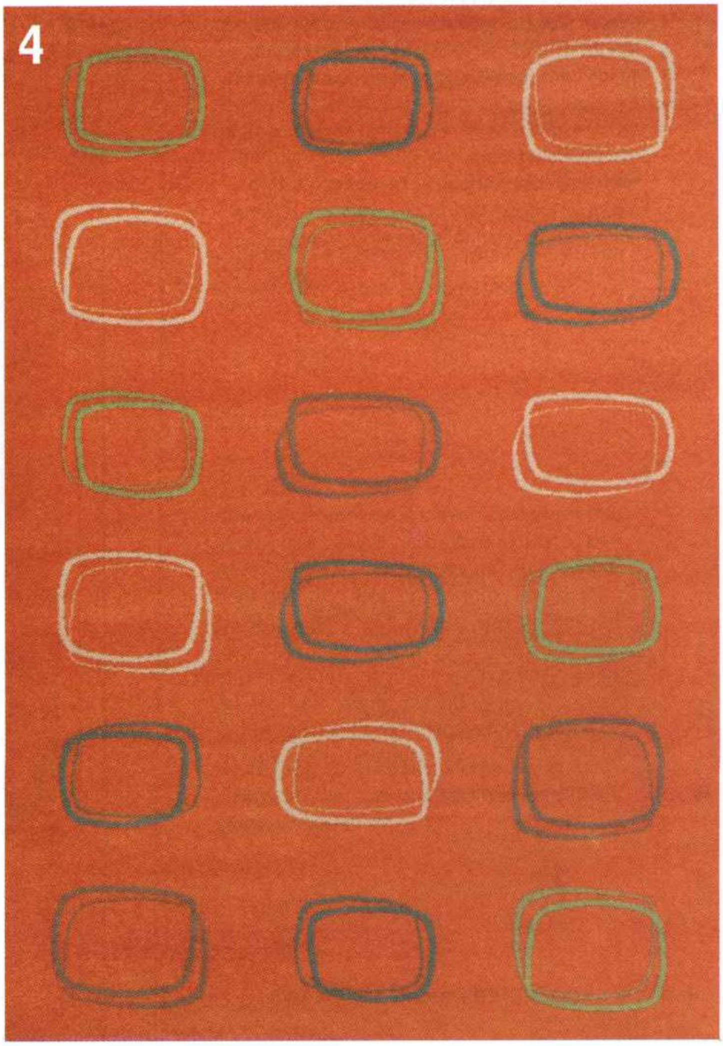


2

3

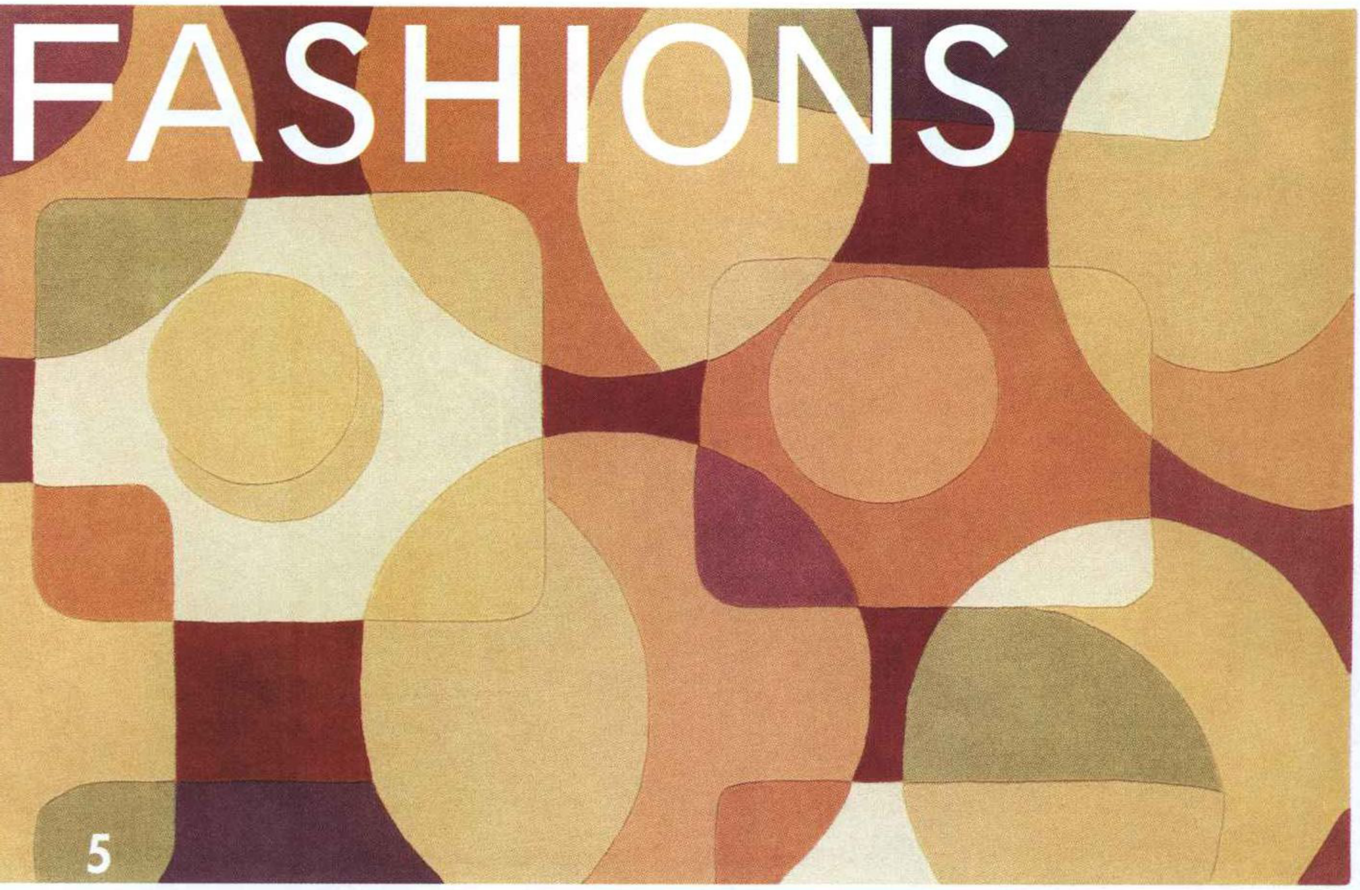


4



WRITTEN BY BETH COLLINS

FASHIONS



5

6



1. Ocean's Away Trans Ocean's Inca Stripes rug is full of soothing, beach-inspired colors, making it great for a casual room. $300. 914-949-5656; *www.transocean.com.*

2. Earn Your Stripes The "Peter's Pond" rug from Judi Boisson is hand knitted and braided. $350 to $1,595, depending on size. 631-283-5466; *www.judiboisson.com.*

3. Spot On From Hellenic Rug Imports' Contemporary Collection, the Torino rug manages to be both colorful and subtle at the same time. $132 to $479, depending on size. 866-356-5284; *www.flokati.com.*

4. Tangerine Dream This rug from Foreign Accents' Bistro Collection would look great with simple, contemporary furniture. $375, 63x91 inches. 800-880-0413; *www.foreign-accents.com.*

5. Taking Shape Couristan's Jubilee rug is perfect for a contemporary room. $69 to $789, depending on size. Available at Rugs Direct. 888-464-1447; *www.rugsdirect.com.*

6. Delicate Doilies Designer Liora Manné's patented method layers dyed acrylic fibers to create colorful felted rugs for her Dimensions collection. The cut designs of this 3-foot Kuba round are made from computerized water jets. $165; other styles, colors and sizes available. 212-989-2732; *www.lioramanne.com.* ■

HOW CLEVER



Decorating projects to brighten a room

WRITTEN BY BRETT BARA



2



3

FONG'S *WALLS THAT WOW*, BY JONATHAN FONG, © 2005 JONATHAN FONG STYLE, INC. PUBLISHED BY WATSON-GUPTILL PUBLICATIONS, A DIVISION OF VNU BUSINESS MEDIA, INC.; 4, HENK BRANDSEN/*ARIADNE AT HOME*/SANOMA SYNDICATION

1. PATCHED TOGETHER

Make a bold statement by creating your own pieced-together wallpaper pattern. Choose papers with complementary colors, then cut into uniform-size squares and adhere them in a repeating sequence with wallpaper glue.

2. GET WIRED Create a modern-looking space for notes and more by attaching simple chicken wire to a wall. Cut wire to size to fit your wall and attach with plastic clamps.

3. REFLECT ON IT Mirrors fill a room with light, so brighten your abode by embellishing simple mirrors with a little paint. Just stencil images onto plain mirrors; cluster several together for a stronger effect.

4. PIN-UPS Clear clutter and get organized by simply gluing old-fashioned clothespins to planks of wood. Notes and keys can be tucked into the pins, while lightweight bags and caps can hang from their tops. ■

4



SEE SOURCES FOR MORE INFORMATION

AT HOME WITH

LIZ LANGE



A dark wood-framed mirror over the fireplace provides visual contrast to the living room's neutral palette of light khaki furniture, walls and floors. The shades on the classic wall sconces echo the color of the fireplace and the collection of milky-white vases that top its mantel.

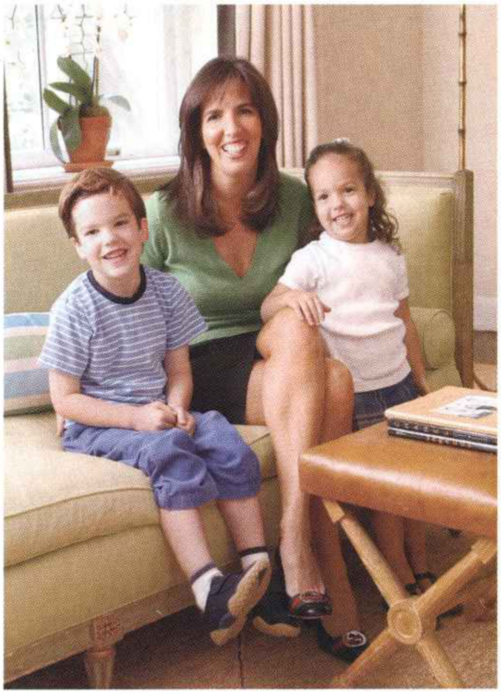


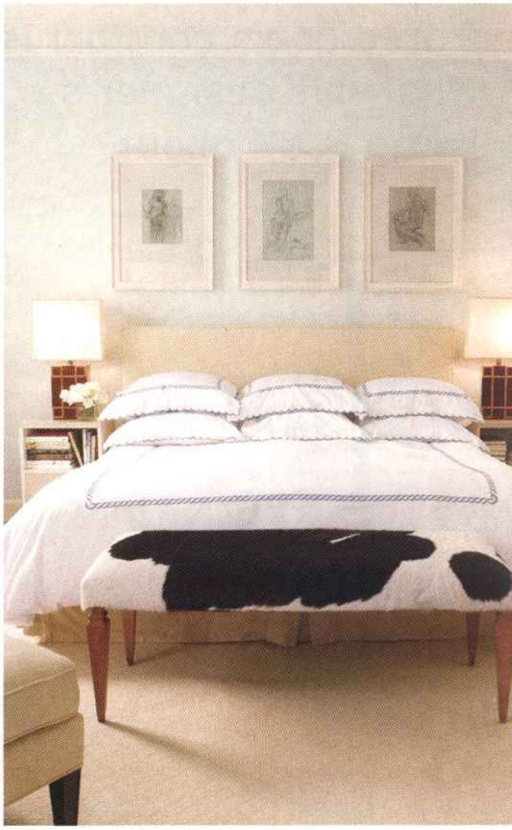
Pared-down comfort is what this designer's home is all about

WRITTEN BY PHYLLIS SCHILLER
PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOHN BESSLER

Playing up a favorite color, Liz coupled powder-blue dining room chair cushions and draperies with wall sconces whose shades are a more intense hue. Combined with the shimmery, silver-leaf wallpaper, white molding and mid-century furniture, the total look is clean and elegant, yet inviting.

SEE SOURCES FOR MORE INFORMATION





A successful designer of maternity clothes, Liz Lange has infused her New York home with the same creative use of color and style she brings to her clothing lines. With active youngsters in residence, Liz also wanted the house to be family-friendly.

The result is a sophisticated decor that combines classic lines and unexpected colors, such as contemporary furnishings upholstered in pale shades. "I like to treat soft colors as if they're neutrals," Liz says. She also likes to play with "mixing different shades of the same color."

While the design scheme is stylishly pared-down, it features an attractive mix of accessories that run the gamut from elegant wall sconces to framed prints. "I'm not an art collector," says Liz. "I buy things that I think are pretty, pleasing and approachable." ■

ABOVE: In the home she shares with children Gus, 6, and Alice, 4, Liz Lange opted for a cozy mix of contemporary furnishings and warm accents.

ABOVE RIGHT: Blue turns up again on the bedroom's tranquil shaded walls. It's a beautiful background for the distinctive headboard covered in a natural linen and a trio of framed sketches grouped above the bed. The bench at the foot of the bed, covered in cowhide, adds a bit of fun to the tailored room.

RIGHT: A classic kitchen scheme of gleaming hardwood floors, crisp white cabinetry and walls, and glossy marble countertops has an old-time appeal that's spruced up with a modern touch—the cabinet interiors were painted apple-green. The casual dining set is a combination of old and new that sums up Liz's design philosophy: "I like the juxtaposition of the Carrara-marble table we all eat on with the flea-market chairs."



"I like to treat soft colors as if they're neutrals," says Liz.



One wall in Liz's neutral-and-celadon living room is perked up with jolts of color from silver-framed prints of graphic textile designs she found in a book. The striped accent pillow adds another bright note.

AN INTERES



TING MIX



A couple transforms an extra room into a tranquil bath

WRITTEN BY LIZ GEORGE
PHOTOGRAPHS BY COLIN POOLE

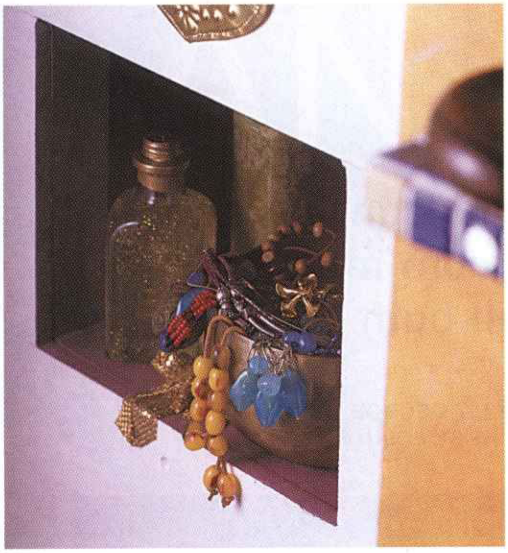




Problem Lucy and James Farmer had an upstairs bathroom in their Victorian home that was severely lacking in function and style. The space was literally a shower room—a toilet was located downstairs—so the need to convert it to a full bath was the first upgrade to address. To gain the necessary space, a spare room would have to be appropriated. The available room had not been updated for years, so new lighting, suitable to the needs of a bathroom, would be necessary, as well as some attention to the damaged flooring.

Solution The couple decided to use their wonderful memories from a trip to India as a decorating springboard for the new bath. New floorboards, varnished in a

The bold colors James and Lucy chose for their new bathroom, reflective of a trip to India, are surprisingly compatible with the home's Victorian style.



ABOVE: Fashioned from a recess by the chimney, James created a delightful, boldly colored niche from wood and particleboard to showcase travel treasures and bath essentials.

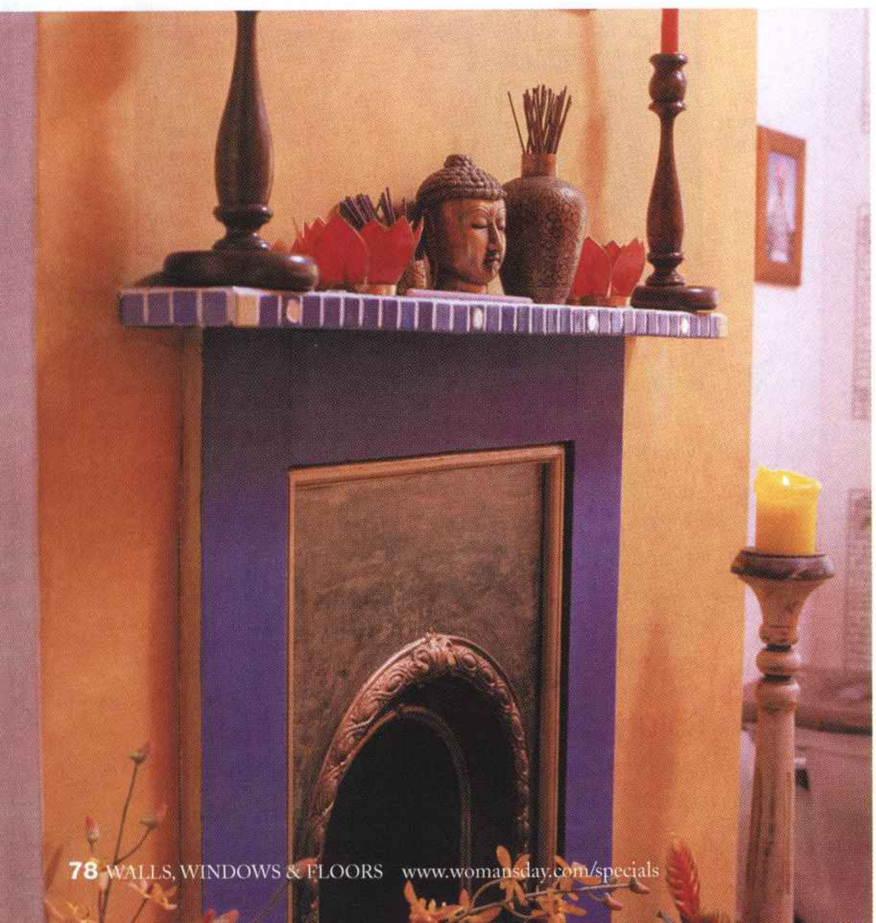
BELOW: As a luxury bonus, a bathroom fireplace, courtesy of the spare room, is transformed with bold blue color and mosaic tile. Gold paint rubbed onto the fireplace's cast-iron grate brings out details. Glued to random tiles, tiny mirrors brought back from India create sparkle.

rich mahogany, were added to the room to complement the bold color scheme of red, yellow and blue. Lucy painted the ceiling and some walls white but treated others to a timeworn patina by using a mottled paint technique (see You Do It, below). The effect softened the spicy red and curry-yellow painted walls while enhancing their appeal.

The bonus of the spare room was an existing but somewhat shabby fireplace that the couple transformed using cobalt-blue paint and installing a mosaic hearth and mantel. Recessed down lights adjusted by a dimmer switch allow bright light in the morning and augment beautiful mood lighting from candles in the evening.

To create privacy while adding interest, Lucy cut up inexpensive curtains printed with Indian prayers she found at a tag sale, made them into panels and added glass bead trim. James fashioned the curtain rods from parallel copper tubes that suit the space perfectly.

Treasures culled from their trip (Indian statues, artwork and postcards), as well as other inexpensive accessories purchased domestically, like baskets and votive candleholders, finish off the room's complete escape feel. ■



YOU DO IT
Mottled Paint Effect

1 Before starting this project, clean, then sand the walls using a fine-grit sandpaper to soften any imperfections.

2 Create a color by mixing one part paint with one part water and one part white craft glue.

3 Place the mixture in a paint tray. Apply it to the walls using a small roller, rolling in random directions to create the mottled effect. Allow paint to dry; reapply in the same manner for a darker, more opaque finish.



Warm, inviting and unique, this colorful bath exudes Indian charm in a Victorian setting.



The bathroom door, with its timeworn ppearance, mimics the look of a alvaged treasure. Lucy created the ffect by simply applying a mahogany arnish, then wiping gold paint over he door with a cloth.

An uninspired bedroom and bath come alive with tropical touches





PHOTOGRAPHS: FROM *DEBBIE TRAVIS' FACELIFT*, BY DEBBIE TRAVIS WITH

ABOVE: Classic, creamy yellow damask wallpaper paired with fresh, white paneling and the addition of dark hardwood floors, make Debbie and Bob's new bedroom a tropical retreat.

THE PERFECT FACE-LIFT



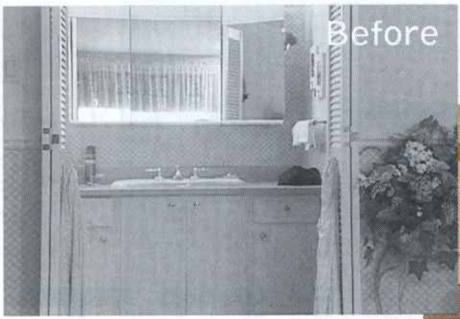
PHOTOGRAPHS BY MANON BOYER

Problem Debbie and Bob's master suite was completely boring with a neutral carpet, white walls, disconnected mix of furniture and bland window treatments. All had to go in order to create the romantic Jamaican plantation look that Debbie had seen on a TV decorating show and wanted for their room. Another obstacle was the room's lack of storage space (the only closet was unsuitably located in the bathroom).

ABOVE: The faux latticework closets in the master bedroom do double duty as much needed storage space and high-impact design elements. **RIGHT:** Debbie's dream came true. Seeing her old bedroom transformed into a new glam space was overwhelming.



EE SOURCES FOR MORE INFORMATION





ABOVE: The old bathroom, like the bedroom, was devoid of personality. Strictly utilitarian, it needed an infusion of luxury.
RIGHT: Adding wood floors and the lattice treatment to bathroom cabinets makes the transition from bed to bath seamless. The oversize mirror over the sink reflects the lush, verdant tropical mural, painted by Bob.

Removing the closet would give additional space to the uninspired bathroom in order to achieve a more sybaritic, pampering retreat.

Solution Starting with the floors, dark wood planks were installed in both the bedroom and bath, adding weight and substance.

Complementing the rich look of the floor and the newly purchased four-poster bed, a traditional damask paper in sunny yellow was applied to the top half of bedroom walls. To give the bottom half equal importance, sheets of Masonite were nailed to the walls and augmented with decorative molding to achieve a paneled effect.

Glossy white paint ties together the historic wallpaper and hardwood floors in a fresh, contemporary way. Adding simple, breezy white panels to windows enhance the island vibe.

Two unused niches on either side of one window were replaced with cupboard-style closets featuring airy latticework door treatments.

In the bathroom, a platform was built to showcase the new tub, covered with warm yellow mosaic tiles. The same latticework treatment was used on the cabinet doors, while a bold, tropical mural provides contrast to the bathroom's light palette, adding both art and color. *—Liz George*

LATTICE DOORS

This faux latticework was easily created with paint; the appearance of overlapping slats is produced by the contrast between translucent glaze and opaque paint. Depth is created with color; the brighter white-painted slats advance, while the more diluted glazed slats recede.

Materials

- Medium-grit sandpaper
- Wood filler
- High-adhesion primer
- Pale color acrylic paint
- Piece of stencil vinyl
- Craft knife
- Stencil spray adhesive
- White acrylic paint
- Water-based glazing liquid
- Paint roller and tray
- Clean rags
- Varnish

NOTE: Clean roller and tray thoroughly between applications.

1. Remove doors and place on a flat work surface. Using medium-grit sandpaper, rough up the surfaces; wipe away dust. Repair any small holes or cracks with wood filler, then apply a coat of primer; let dry.

2. Apply base coat of pale paint; let dry. Apply second coat; let dry 4 hours.

3. Using a large piece of vinyl, cut out slat openings, see Photograph 5, to make stencil. Cut slats on the diagonal, in one direction.

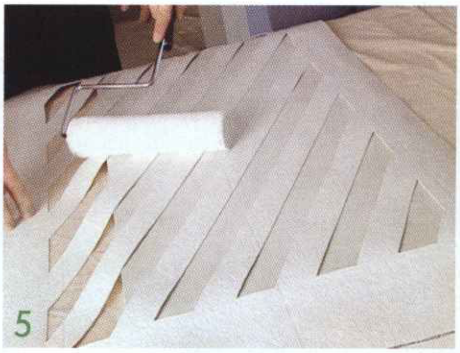
4. Use spray adhesive to adhere stencil into position on one door.

5. Mix a white glaze using 1 part paint to 3 parts glazing liquid. Roll glaze over stencil to make lower set of slats.

6. Remove stencil; wipe off drips. Let glaze dry 4 hours.

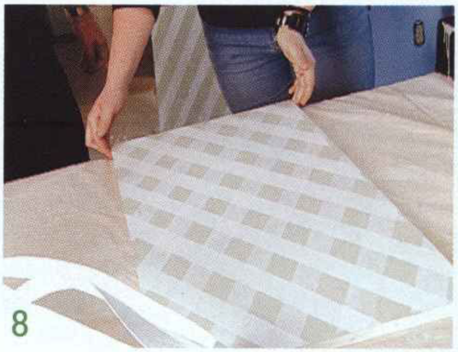
7. Clean stencil, flip it over and position it onto the door so slats are crossing the previously painted slats. Roll on white paint; let dry.

8. Apply two coats of varnish to protect the finish; let dry between coats. Repeat steps for remaining doors.


5


6


7


8



THIS PAGE: Maude, Sarah's West Highland terrier, cozies up to one of the storage units that makes the most of the small apartment's limited wall space. A perfect backdrop for the white-painted dining room set is the bay window covered with heavy, creamy drapes. The chunky rods sit just below the original decorative cornicing. **OPPOSITE:** Sarah and Maude enjoy some quiet time on the comfy white sofa covered in easy-care slipcovers complemented by bright accent pillows. A commissioned painting dominates the space, bringing visual excitement to the white walls.



MAKING MORE FROM LESS



A tiny apartment becomes a warm and cozy home

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANDREAS VON EINSIEDEL

When interior designer Sarah Vanrenen bought her London apartment, she had to put all her creativity to use. The once big room chopped up into small living spaces by the previous owner was a far cry from the cozy layout Sarah envisioned calling home.

But she could see the potential of the apartment's tall ceilings and large windows, so she renovated the space to maximize every square inch, adding a three-quarter wall to divide the newly apportioned rooms.

To add as much storage space as possible, Sarah incorporated a series of cabinets she designed that allowed her to tuck away intrusive items like her TV, stereo and sewing machine, as well as day-to-day clutter. "My plan was that everything should disappear with ease," she says.

Painting the walls, floors and cabinetry in

BELOW: Small but efficient, the kitchen echoes the apartment's hallmarks—white tone-on-tones and clever cabinetry. Marble countertops are set off with stainless-steel appliances.





A white palette makes Sarah's small rooms appear larger.



Emphasizing the apartment's tall ceilings, an old ladder has been propped against the divider wall, which is topped by a pair of antique ivory jars. An older chair was given a new lease on life with blue silk upholstery.



To visually enhance the apartment's layout, Sarah added a floor-to-ceiling mirror, painted a silvery gray, along the chimney breast. Sitting on a small, round side table is an elaborate candelabra that adds a touch of class.



Departing from the look of the rest of the apartment, the bedroom is highlighted by a dreamy lavender-and-gray-accented color scheme. Taking up one wall, a textured-silk-covered headboard is set off by framed artwork. The windows, which almost fill another wall, are covered with a lavish calico treatment held open with embellished tiebacks.

A soft lilac color adorns the bedroom and bath.





oyster-white allowed the storage units to seamlessly blend into the decor. The only departure from this white-on-white scheme is a soft lilac color that adorns the bedroom and bath.

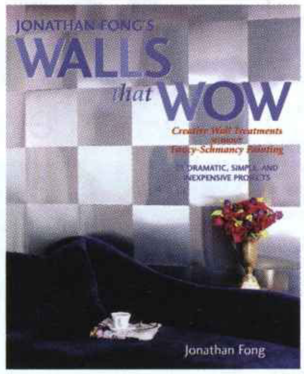
A stylish mix of overscaled decorative accents on the walls—a commissioned painting that nearly touches the ceiling, a large framed mirror over the fireplace—help to visually enlarge the space. A mix of silk, linen and calico fabric provides textural interest, accenting a pared-down mix of upholstered and painted wood furniture that gives this pretty apartment its easy elegance. —*Phyllis Schiller*



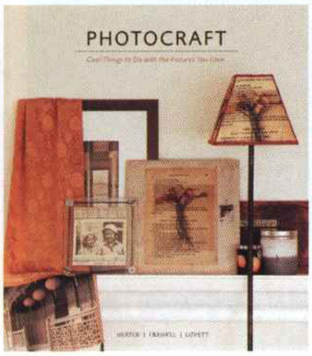
ABOVE: Framed artwork, a smattering of personal accessories and an eye-catching painted chair are the simple but refined touches that highlight the bedroom's lilac walls, a color that is carried through to the adjoining bathroom.

BELOW: The bathroom walls are a mini-gallery, every inch crammed with an artful array of framed photos, prints and mirrors. Topping off the splendor is a crystal chandelier. Simple lacy curtains cover the window but allow light to filter in. On the floor are dark gray flagstones, which add an appealing "street paving" look.

Need more inspiration? Check out these books



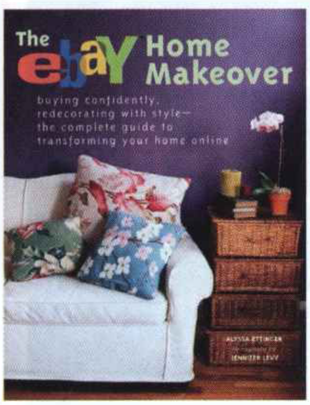
Jonathan Fong's Walls that Wow, by Jonathan Fong (Watson-Guptill, 2005), is a fun, inspiring anti-paint-your-wall book that presents 24 stylish treatments that anyone can do. Create easy projects with step-by-step instructions, unexpected materials—such as corrugated cardboard—and simple techniques. $24.95



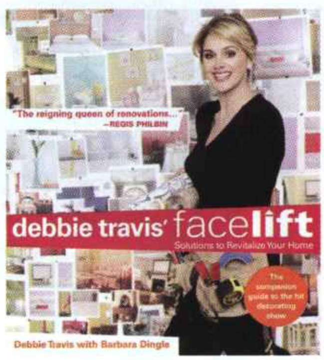
Photocraft: Cool Things to Do with Pictures You Love, by Caroline Herter, Laurie Frankel and Laura Lovett (Bulfinch Press, 2005), shows an easy and affordable way to fuse technology with the act of taking pictures. Step-by-step instructions show how photos can be turned into bathroom borders, scarves, quilts and other unique gifts. $19.95



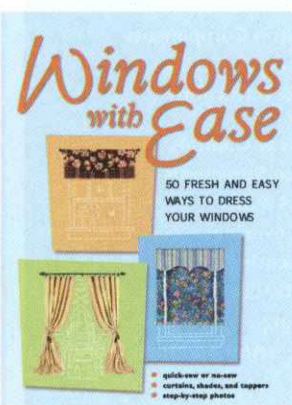
Simple Soft Furnishings: 50 Stylish Home Sewing Projects to Transform Your Home, by Katrin Cargill (Firefly, 2004), is an inspiring and practical guide to creating fashionable home furnishings, including elegant curtains, simple cushions and sumptuous bedding. $24.95



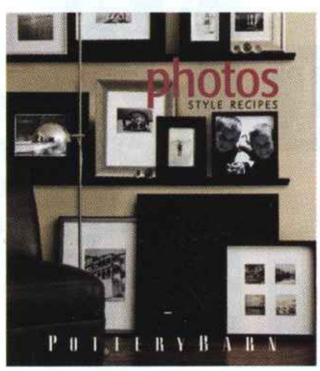
The eBay Home Makeover, by Alyssa Ettinger (Watson-Guptill, 2005), is a great resource and idea book for decorating your home through eBay. It offers tips and tricks from eBay professionals, easy makeover projects, decorating advice from a pro and a comprehensive buyer's guide with over 140 sources. $19.95



Debbie Travis' Facelift: Solutions to Revitalize Your Home, by Debbie Travis with Barbara Dingle (Clarkson Potter, 2005), is a companion guide to her hit decorating show. You'll find innovative solutions, practical advice and a fresh, simple approach to revitalizing any room of your home. $19.95



Windows with Ease: 50 Fresh and Easy Ways to Dress Your Windows, by the editors of Creative Publishing International (2003), provides color photos and instructions for creating custom window treatments. Whatever your ability, you'll find detailed directions as well as shortcuts for many sew, low-sew and no-sew designs. $19.95



Pottery Barn Style Recipes: Photos, by the Pottery Barn Design Team (Weldon Owen and Pottery Barn, 2005), is a comprehensive guide on how to decorate your home with photographs. It includes creative advice on choosing frames, hanging and displaying photos, and steps for DIY projects.$14.95

PHOTOGRAPH BY MARCUS TULLIS



Art Deco Sconces

Liven up your walls with these modern beams of light

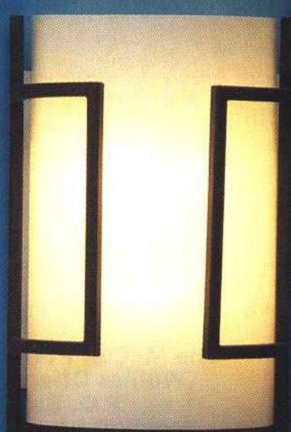
1 Best of Both Worlds
Kichler's Wall-Mounted Antique Pewter sconce combines Tiffany and Art Deco styles. $150. *www.kichler.com.*



2 The Belle of the Wall
Add understated elegance with Bellacor's Alabaster and Antique Brass wall sconce. $283. 877-723-5522; *www.bellacor.com.*



3 Vega, Baby, Vega
The Vega wall sconce from Thomas Lighting features white art glass in a painted bronze finish. $369. 502-420-9600; *www.thomaslighting.com.*



4 Go Goth
Hubbardton Forge's Gothic Arches wrought-iron sconce comes in five finishes. At Five Rivers Lighting. $106 for most finishes. 800-574-8377; *www.fiverivers.com.*



5 Bronze Beauty
Make a bold statement with the Deco Bronze collection Wide Wall Sconce from Lamps Plus. $50. 800-782-1967; *www.lampsplus.com.* ■

